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14 September Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1409131588 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

Iraq has agreed to go to New York and "attend one meeting" in response to the UN secretary general's invitation, provided that direct negotiations in Geneva are later resumed on a "binding and agreed-upon" date, the Iraqi delegation announced in a statement carried by INA. The statement also disclosed that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz cannot go to New York before the first week of October.

The Iraqi statement followed Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's disclosure that Iran had accepted the UN secretary general's proposal to continue the peace talks in New York on 22 September, according to IRNA. UN mediator Jan Eliasson subsequently stressed that Iraq's unwillingness to attend the New York meeting before the first week of October is merely a "technical" issue, IRNA noted, and he expressed hope that a date can be fixed for the New York talks in a "smooth and undramatic" manner.

In other remarks after the plenary session in Geneva, Velayati claimed that Iraq is trying to distance itself from the United Nations, and he called on the Iraqis to come to New York with a "different attitude," IRNA reported.

In Iraq, INA announced that an Iraqi oil tanker returned safely to the southern Iraqi port of Khawr al-Zubayr 12 September after carrying oil to a PDRY refinery. The agency noted that this was the first voyage by an Iraqi oil tanker for 8 years.

Iraq and the Kurds

Iraq has coordinated with South Korea to tighten protection and security measures around the Iraqi delegation participating in the Seoul Olympics following information about an assassination plot by Kurdish "terrorists," INA announced. Iraqi intelligence had discovered the "threads" of a plot involving "stray Kurds," residing outside Iraq, who are backed by Iran and Syria, INA stated.

On the situation in northern Iraq, Baghdad radio announced that over 18,000 Kurds have now returned in accordance with the amnesty and are being provided with health, food, social, and housing services. Over 16,500 Kurds have sought asylum in Iran following the recent Iraqi military operations, according to IRNA. In a message to the Iranian president cited by Tehran radio, Kurdish Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani thanked Iran for its assistance and claimed that over 1,500 Kurdish civilians were killed in Iraqi aerial chemical weapons (CW) attacks on 26 August.

Among other expressions of Arab support for the Iraqi Government's position, a Saudi "responsible source" cited by SPA condemned the U.S. Senate's attempt to impose sanctions on Iraq and expressed the Kingdom's "full support" for Iraq's efforts to establish peace, security, and stability in the Gulf region. The Bahraini Foreign Ministry denounced the "noxious campaign" against Iraq in a statement carried by WAKH, noting that the accusations of CW use were not substantiated by the Turkish medical committee's report on Kurdish refugees, and asserting that such accusations are an attempt to obstruct the Geneva peace negotiations. The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador to express Kuwait's "deep concern" over U.S. accusations against Iraq on the CW issue, according to KUNA.

In contrast, Syria's permanent representative at the Arab League affirmed that the Iraqi regime is using CW against its opponents, and called on the Arab League to set up a fact-finding commission on the issue, SANA noted.

Iran

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the wartime services of IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, stressing that the Majlis no-confidence vote on Rafiqdust and other ministers does not detract from their past services to the government and people, IRNA reported.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that several clashes erupted between the Lebanese Army and Lebanese Forces (LF) militia in East Beirut following the brief abduction of Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran. In a statement cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, the LF confirmed that an "incident" occurred in the Salome area, asserting that one LF member was killed and another wounded when an Army patrol opened fire on an LF vehicle.

On the abduction of 'Usayran, sources close to the LF disclosed that the defense minister was seized by friends of deputy Farid Sarhal in an attempt to bring about the latter's release from West Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. However, the radio said that LF Commander Samir Ja'ja' acted quickly to free 'Usayran, and Radio Free Lebanon subsequently cited an LF Command Council statement condemning the "regrettable" act to which the defense minister was subjected. Rejecting any attempt to spread "political kidnapping" into the "free areas," the LF called on influential leaders in West Beirut to secure Sarhal's release.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech to Socialist members of the European Parliament contained no surprise or new element, Radio Monte

Carlo reported, noting 'Arafat's statement indicating that it will be up to the PNC to decide on the "important questions" currently facing the PLO. 'Arafat affirmed his willingness to accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338 within the framework of all UN resolutions on the Palestine issue, the radio said, adding that the PLO leader's remarks made "positive impressions" on the European parliamentarians.

In Moscow, TASS confirmed that 'Arafat and other PLO leaders recently held talks in Tunis with a Soviet delegation headed by USSR Foreign Ministry official Vladimir Polyakov. The two sides held a "detailed exchange of views" on ways to achieve the swiftest possible settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, TASS stated, and both sides agreed on the need to continue the Soviet-Palestinian dialogue.

The TASS report followed the publication of an article in the UAE's AL-KHALIJ revealing that Polyakov had visited Tunis in response to an urgent message from the PLO sounding out the Soviet position on the "political options" currently facing the Palestinians. According to the AL-KHALIJ report, as cited by WAKH, the Soviet side advised the PLO against declaring a Palestinian "state" at present, indicating that the Soviet Union prefers the declaration of a "provisional government" with a "realistic" program.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir left for Hungary, where he will hold talks with Premier Karoly Grosz and Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi, IDF radio reported 14 September. A Hungarian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Budapest radio had earlier stated that Shamir would arrive on a "private" visit.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also left Israel 14 September, flying to Britain for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, Jerusalem radio noted. Peres stated on his departure that a "supreme effort" is needed to stop the "erosion" in the European position, adding that "the arena should not be left to the PLO alone."

Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan's recent meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis received a "mixed reception" among Israeli political circles, Jerusalem television noted, adding that Shamir's office called it a "grave act which contravenes the law."

On the situation in the territories, Jerusalem radio disclosed that 11 rioters were wounded during clashes with the IDF in the Gaza Strip 12-13 September. The IDF lifted the curfew on Qalqilyah 14 September after an 8-day operation during which nearly 200 Palestinian suspects were arrested, the radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Queried on 'Strategy,' Uprising

LD1309203488 Paris TF1 Television in French 1800 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondent at the news studio; 'Arafat speaks in Arabic with simultaneous translation provided by Ibrahim al-Sus, PLO representative in Paris—live]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] [Passage omitted] Yasir 'Arafat, each time we try to get a Jew and a Palestinian to talk to each other, there is always the same problem; the one does not want to recognize the PLO, and the other does not want to recognize Israel. So for you, when will recognition of Israel come?

['Arafat] Are you against democracy? There is democracy among our Palestinian people, and each has a right to state his view. It is up to our Palestinian National Council to decide. Our Palestinian National Council has decided to have a dialogue with all the democratic and progressive forces of Israel, within Israel and outside Israel. At the same time as we are establishing dialogue with these democratic forces, with these Israeli forces, there was a resolution in the Israeli Knesset, the Israeli legislative body, which decided to punish all those who talk with us. So I think we must be just and fair.

[Correspondent] It seems that tension has decreased somewhat in the territories you call occupied territories. Did you make a mistake in strategy?

['Arafat] First, I must say that [Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin admitted that the popular uprising is increasing in force and in scale. Naturally, at the same time the Israelis continued their oppression. There are to date 450 dead and 12,000 wounded, with 25,000 detained. Without mentioning the houses blown up and the desecration of all the Christian and Muslim holy places sites, miscarriages among women and the other crimes continue. But our people will continue with their intifada, the uprising, wave by wave until the end of the Israeli occupation—exactly as, you recall, the French people and the European peoples continued to fight against the Nazi occupation of Europe.

[Correspondent] A last question, Yasir 'Arafat. Regularly, you are reported dead or dying. I remember the picture of you leaving Beirut, or under the debris in Tunis during the bombing. Do you have baraka [divine protection] as you say in Arabic?

['Arafat] You should know, you should understand our lives, because we are fighting for our people, our lives are very cheap in comparison with achieving our objective. My life is sacrificed so that my people can live free on their land. This is the destiny of every resister against occupation. Finally, what matters is the lives of the people, the lives of our children.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, on the day you die, will there be a Palestinian state?

['Arafat] Without doubt there will be a Palestinian state, and there will be peace in the Middle East. I invite you, you personally, to visit me and visit my people in this independent Palestinian state. Do you accept this invitation?

[Correspondent] Well, I thank you for that invitation. Thank you very much, Yasir 'Arafat.

['Arafat] Do not mention it.

'Arafat, USSR Delegation Hold 'Secret Meetings'

LD1309131588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1037 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, Sept 13 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has held secret meetings in Tunis with a Soviet delegation, let by Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East Department at the Foreign Ministry, a United Arab Emirates newspaper reported today.

The Al-Shariqah-based AL-KHALIJ said Polyakov's visit came in response to an "urgent" letter sent by 'Arafat seeking the Soviet Union's position on the latest political developments in the region, "especially those related with the political options available for the PLO."

Quoting "well-informed" Palestinian sources, the paper said 'Arafat's message included "specific questions" on the Soviet position.

"Polyakov held a closed meeting with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat followed by an expanded session, in which a number of Palestinian leaders took part," Al-KHALIJ said.

According to the sources, "Moscow is urging the PLO to adopt well-studied political steps as soon as possible because it sees a genuine opportunity to reinvigorate the Middle East peace process through an international conference."

The paper said that while the Kremlin does not advise the PLO to declare an independent Palestinian state, they want the organization to come out with a "realistic" political program.

Moscow believes such a declaration would "complicate the possibilities for convening the international conference," the paper said.

The sources were quoted by AL-KHALIJ as saying a number of European countries have also informed the PLO they would welcome a provisional government if it adopted a clear political program.

It said "indepth deliberations" conducted during the past week have led 'Arafat to come out with seven options that were presented to Fatah's Revolutionary Council.

However, the paper said Fatah, the mainstream PLO group, limited them to four:
[Word indistinct] for mandate, custodianship or supervision by the United Nations of Palestinian territories occupied in the 1967 war.
The declaration of an independent Palestinian state.
The declaration of an independent state and the formation of a provisional government.
The formation of a provisional government. [last three sentences as received]

Further on Meetings

LD1309202088 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1718 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, 13 Sep (TASS)—Between 11-13 September meetings took place in Tunis between V.P. Polyakov, member of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. There were also discussions with members of the PLO Executive Committee: Faruq Qaddumi, leader of the PLO Political Department and member of the Fatah Central Committee; Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the Fatah Central Committee; Sulayman al-Najjab, deputy general secretary of the Palestinian Communist Party; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, deputy general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and 'Abdallah Hurani. There was a detailed exchange of views on issues concerning the situation in the Near East and the achievement of the speediest possible political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Y. 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders informed the Soviet representative about the PLO leadership's efforts to implement the legal right of the Arab Palestinian people to self-determination and the reinstatement of peace in the Near East on the basis of equality and mutual security.

Both sides stressed that recent events in the region, including the widespread peaceful actions of the Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel, prove the need to start the process for achieving an all-embracing Near East settlement and the need to convene an international conference as a generally recognized mechanism and the only adequate means of ensuring the balance of the interests of all parties drawn into the conflict.

An accord was reached on continuing the Soviet-Palestinian dialogue and on the exchange of views on the issues of establishing peace in the Near East and solving the Palestinian problem.

A discussion also took place between V.P. Polyakov and Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League.

PLO Official Interviewed on 'Palestinian State'

PM0709101188 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Sep 88 pp 28-29

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: I believe that the Palestinian delegation's tour of Jordan and Egypt is very important, especially as it concerns the future of the Palestinian problem. Differing views have emerged over some of the recent Jordanian measures. Have these differences been overcome?

Al-Hasan: It is well known that King Husayn announced the severance of legal and administrative links with the West Bank. This Jordanian measure, which was taken by one side, is in fact in line with the 1974 Rabat resolutions, which stipulate that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In view of the way the measure was taken, there was a need to remedy the situation in order to prevent negative results. Actually, Jordan made a political decision to eliminate the overlapping responsibilities between the PLO and Jordan as a result of the PLO's growing role. This overlap was responsible for tension in the past. Therefore, there was a need to separate so there could be a rapprochement. As the PLO considers the measure a step in the right direction; and as the PLO is determined to cooperate with all influential Arab forces to eliminate Israeli occupation and establish a Palestinian state; and as Jordan is at the forefront of these states; and as the PLO is concerned to objectively coordinate and unify views over methods of handling the conflict—that is, with Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, as well as the Gulf and Arab Maghreb states—we went to Amman with open hearts. We have reached an understanding over Jordanian measures relating to the Palestinian land. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What about the passport problem, a cause of concern to Palestinians?

Al-Hasan: It has been agreed that the Palestinians should carry Jordanian passports, although we differed over the validity period of passports. The Jordanians suggested that it should be 2 years, and we suggested that it should be 4 years. Solutions have been drawn up for many other problems. Therefore, I can say that the problems concerning the West Bank can be settled, and we shall put them in their final context during the next meeting.

AL-HAWADITH: Does the repetition of talks mean that no agreement has been reached in terms of similar viewpoints?

Al-Hasan: No dates have been set yet. Undoubtedly, there will be several meetings. The important point is that it is Jordan's conviction that this is the right time to focus on the Palestinian option and move away from U.S. pressure, which insists that Jordan exercise the Jordanian option as an alternative to the Palestinian option. We must pursue a policy of rapprochement toward Amman to take over our tasks and shoulder our responsibilities on our Palestinian territory via a friendly atmosphere and sincere meetings with Jordan, which has adopted a new position urging "separation" and characterized by clarity, which is now being practiced on the ground level, by eliminating overlapping responsibilities and avoiding duplication. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There have been reports of Egypt's intention to take similar measures regarding the Gaza Strip. Has this been on the delegation's agenda in Cairo?

Al-Hasan: This talk is not on the cards and is unjustified, because Egypt's legal responsibility regarding the Strip has never been political in nature. Egypt, the elder sister, did not annex the Gaza Strip, either before or after 1967. Even in 1950, when the Arabs discussed at the Arab League the question of the annexation of Palestinian territory by neighboring states, Egypt refused and forced the League to decide that Palestinian lands be held in trust by the Arab states concerned pending their return to the Palestinian people after they had liberated their land and established their own state. Egypt has always, especially since President Husni Mubarak assumed power, acted in a clear and unambiguous manner, emphasizing that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, there is no need for a policy of "separation and then rapprochement."

AL-HAWADITH: What stage has been reached in respect of contacts concerning a government-in-exile? Has a date been set for its announcement?

Al-Hasan: I personally discussed this issue with President Husni Mubarak in December 1987, because the idea of preparing for the formation of Palestinian provisional government has been a dream of the Palestinian revolution since its inception. Every national liberation movement looks forward to the day it can announce its own provisional government. Its announcement is determined by the ripeness of international and objective circumstances for world recognition by various international political blocs, because such a government is the source of authority on Palestinian territory and the legitimate representative of the people. So the idea is not new. What is new is that when sudden changes occur while you are heading toward your target, you tend to move faster toward that target. Jordan's decision to eliminate overlapping responsibilities is an important event on the political level. Because this position makes the Palestinian option the only option, especially as many states, in particular a number of Arab and Western states, used to face problems when choosing between the PLO and Jordan. This is because the matter concerns the political equilibrium of the region. As Jordan has decided to relinquish responsibility, even partnership, the road is now clear for a large number of European states to recognize a Palestinian government.

Therefore, the studies we began in December must be completed now. That is why we have brought in a large number of law specialists to study how such a government can be accepted by the United Nations, as well as the legal requirements needed to secure admission to that international organization—and also to study how we can present ourselves via a program that is acceptable internationally, a program that does not forfeit any of the Palestinian rights. All this will be discussed during the coming 2 weeks in order to come up with a final position. After that we will convene the PNC to decide whether to move the Palestinian struggle onto a new political arena. In this regard we must not forget that credit for all these moves and developments must go to the great uprising. The Palestinian revolution has the capability to move from strategic defense, which it has continued for 22 years, to a strategic offensive that will make the revolution a fundamental body, potential, and pivot inside the occupied territories rather than outside them.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been reported that the general result will benefit the leaders inside [the occupied territories] in the government, because they have played an important role in the uprising and avoided any objection from PLO and Executive Committee members.

Al-Hasan: All these issues must be discussed carefully because the matter is not a personal one. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] urged the legal committee, before it began its work, not to think of national matters [as published], to move forward, to develop ways of moving the revolution to the inside, and to benefit from the new situation created by the "new generals" and young leaders via the uprising on the grounds that this is an important advance in perpetuating this situation on the ground level. The important thing is not who is in the government, but rather how to enter the United Nations and secure Western recognition, especially that of the United States and Western Europe, in addition to other states of the world. The government's task is to eliminate occupation and achieve national independence.

AL-HAWADITH: Will Abu 'Ammar declare a Palestinian government at the European Parliament, as rumored, or at the PNC?

Al-Hasan: Abu 'Ammar cannot declare the establishment of a Palestinian government except on his own territory and within his parliament. But the invitation sent out by the European Parliament is a precious opportunity for him to secure, by means of a speech, the European governments' recognition of a Palestinian government. I believe that the announcement of a government and the announcement of national independence are still two struggle steps, rather than two procedural steps. Taking these two steps will not mean we will get

the land the following day. But I believe that the announcement will be an important step toward shortening the period of "Palestinian political pregnancy"—which is something badly needed by the Palestinian people, 5,000 of whose children have been injured during the uprising and are now handicapped.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the United States, which is preparing for a new presidential election, can take an important step such as recognizing the PLO or even a Palestinian state?

Al-Hasan: I do not believe that the United States will be among the first countries to recognize such a government, especially when we know that George Shultz is a supporter of the Likud bloc and worked to destroy Shim'on Peres. It represents U.S. interests in the region. That is why I said the announcement of a government is a struggle step. But both the present and the next U.S. Governments must realize that the present situation cannot take a backward step; it is not in the West's interest to continue this situation. We will wait to see who wins, George Bush or Michael Dukakis. In the middle of next year we will celebrate the second [as published] anniversary of the uprising, which will force the presidential victor to sit down with the Palestinians and recognize a Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The same question applies to the Israeli side, especially in view of the Knesset elections and the possibility of the Likud winning. How do you visualize the Palestinian position?

Al-Hasan: We Palestinians know that no direct understanding can be reached with the Israelis. Thus we, in cooperation with international legitimacy and the five [permanent] members of the Security Council, must drag them to the international conference table. And this is one of the main reasons for our conviction of the need to convene an international conference. As for the idea that results can be achieved via direct dialogue with a man like Shamir, that is simply a delusion, because he makes his moves on the basis of a doctrine repudiating withdrawal from "Judaea and Samaria." The Likud is seeking to annex both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, rather than withdraw from them. For this reason we teach our cadres that the Palestinian state is not begging in Tel Aviv, but rather asserting its rights. Moreover, there is an attempt to succeed in making the world support the PLO on one hand, and keeping the Israelis isolated on the other. There is a world that is rising up and another that is collapsing. After 40 years the Palestinian people are now the world that is rising up.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that recent events have transcended the Bassam Abu Sharif document and the Faysal al-Husayni document?

Al-Hasan: We cannot talk about transcendence. Some ideas were proposed and it has been shown that the world has responded to some of them. Thus we can benefit from that experiment, though it was not carried out under intended planning, in the sense that we can benefit from it in introducing ourselves to the Western world at this stage.

AL-HAWADITH: Some point out that there is a dispute among the Palestinian factions over acceptance of the idea of a provisional government.

Al-Hasan: They have all supported the idea, even [PFLP Secretary General] George Habash. It might not be in the interest of the factions, I mean those we can call factions, to define their positions. We in Fatah do this when we sense changes will occur. We then retreat if we fail to persuade the other Palestinian forces to proceed with us. There is nothing more precious than the national unity of our people and the unity of their forces and organization. As for the captive organizations, they are powerless.

AL-HAWADITH: But there are fears about a change in the Soviet position on the Palestinian issue which would adversely affect the next step.

Al-Hasan: The Soviet position has not changed. It is one of a friend who wishes the Palestinian people every good. But in bilateral negotiations, when there was no resistance, the issue was not listed on the agenda of the two giants. Thus, we must realize that the Palestinian people will have to rely on themselves in making the next move. And when the international conference commences, the presence of the Soviet Union, China, and France will be an important factor in imposing a balance among positions at the international conference.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the PLO's readiness to issue a program acceptable to international parties defining the policy of the provisional government? Will it be a government-in-exile or a provisional government?

Al-Hasan: At the next stage a multiplicity of options will not be allowed, as the senior elements have agreed. We must not be victims of this agreement. At the next stage we will introduce ourselves via a specific program. Our slogan will be either make the program a success or wait for the next generation. And through what we have learned from the art of handling the conflict, we shall present something to help us move forward and achieve our objectives. We do not have a new political program. Revolutions do not abandon their aims and programs. What we have is greater clarification of our political program. We want to establish a Palestinian state which seeks stability and peace and rejects racism, a state that seeks security. As for many of the details we are asked to clarify, they will depend on how others tell us the problem of the Palestinian refugees will be resolved.

PLO Envoy to Cairo on Relations With Jordan

JN0309195088 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
2 Sep 88 p 21

[Interview with Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, by Muhammad 'Ismat in Cairo "a few days prior to his departure for the PLO Central Council Meeting in Baghdad"]

[Excerpts] ['Ismat] Is there anything new you can say about relations between Jordan and the PLO?

[Kamal] We certainly want to improve relations. King Husayn has a similar desire to improve relations. At the same time, both Egypt and Iraq are playing an active role in maintaining a state of amicable relations with Jordan. Nevertheless, the solution does not come from Egypt or Iraq, but it comes only through direct dialogue between brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and King Husayn. We are seeking to bring about such a dialogue through careful planning. I do not want to say more than that because the issue is very sensitive.

['Ismat] The political efforts that previously resulted in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement ultimately supported the idea of the international conference and harnessing support for it. Frankly, what gains does the PLO expect from the international conference?

[Kamal] You ask me what are the gains? Before I answer, I would like to say to His Majesty King Husayn and his senior aides: The Palestine question should not be a Jordanian issue. It is an Arab cause that begins with Jordan, as it had the longest border with occupied Palestine when it was under the British mandate. President Mubarak and all the Arab leaders without exception share in that cause. King Husayn agreed to that at the Algiers summit, and we consider it a sound beginning for strong Palestinian-Jordanian relations. The international conference is one of the manifestations of international detente which leads to a just solution to the Palestinian people's cause.

Let me say it frankly: Is it in the interest of the Palestine cause—an issue with an international dimension—to remain in a climate of no war, no peace? Such a climate serves Israel and the United States, and yet the long-term effect of such a climate will not be in Israel's interest at all. If the Israeli leaders were to realize that, they would agree now to the convening of the international conference.

In any case, the existing situation confirms that our option of armed struggle is to end the state of no war by fighting and at the same time to end the state of no peace by peace. One of the features of the PLO policy, which has become a world policy defying the international community and the big powers, is the international peace conference.

['Ismat] Are there Palestinian conditions for convening the conference?

[Kamal] Our conditions, if one can say that, is that we should be on an equal footing with the various sides when we negotiate with Israel, and that it is the PLO that represents the Palestinian side, which is the side mainly concerned with the conflict. I do not mean concerned from the security and economic aspect, for all the Arabs are concerned from that aspect. I mean the political aspect. It is the Palestinian people who are primarily concerned with the political aspect of the conflict.

Israel seeks to exacerbate the issue of no war, no peace to create divisions among PLO leaders. And yet, if there are Israeli leaders who are realistic and do not have a racist and colonialist attitude they will realize that by agreeing to the principle of a just peace with the Palestinian people they will avoid massacres of their people in the future regardless of the time that passes. We are a generation of Palestinians who have been living the Palestine cause since the 1940's. We know the meaning of homelessness and we have experienced many difficulties. Consequently, we are prepared to sit down face-to-face in an effective international conference to achieve a just settlement. That is an existing and firm Palestinian policy that has not changed. [passage omitted]

['Ismat] Incidentally, are you still calling on Arab countries to open their borders with Israel to Palestinian fighters?

[Kamal] We are always calling on the Arab states on the front lines to make such a decision at the highest level so we may support the uprising of our people inside the occupied land. Should Israeli extremists come to power, we will experience a really hard time. But this will apply as much to the Israeli extremists. It is therefore imperative that Arab borders be opened. Its timing is also important. We ask that the matter be studied.

['Ismat] Where do you place the Palestinian armed struggle on the map of the present Palestinian action?

[Kamal] To begin with, in terms of method, ideology, and practice, armed struggle is a key constituent of the Palestinian psyche and orientation. Having produced the uprising, armed struggle is, as such, a tactical issue. But then I am not well versed in the military side, to be honest with you. On the other hand, we are now discussing the subject at the PLO office in Egypt. Besides, no Palestinian decision has as yet discounted armed struggle. For further enlightenment, I would refer you back to my answer to your question about opening Arab borders with Israel. [passage omitted]

['Ismat] And what about the present state of your relations with Egypt?

[Kamal] Look, I just hope we, the Palestinian factions, would learn from political forces in Egypt and Morocco. In both countries there is a large measure of agreement among all the political forces on foreign policy. It is in this area in particular that disagreement among the

Palestinian factions is most obvious. Under President Mubarak's honest, faithful, and open policies, Egypt does not meddle in internal Palestinian affairs. Furthermore, Egypt's unions and political forces without exception give priority attention to the Palestinian cause. Whatever differences we may have with Egypt, we would like them to be resolved in an atmosphere of friendship. Certain people in the Palestinian camp, however, do not see things in this light. But the Palestinian mainstream, the PLO, and brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] are most anxious—if only to advance our cause—to coordinate moves with Egypt. Being in charge of the Palestinian side in our ties with Egypt, I know that Egypt is equally willing to foster this trend.

['Ismat] Are efforts now underway to patch up intra-Palestinian differences in the aftermath of the recent Beirut incidents?

[Kamal] Inevitably, intensive efforts to that end must be made ahead of the new PLO national congress and the 19th PNC session. The Palestinian Central Council will meet in the coming few days in Baghdad and work toward unifying Palestinian factions under the PLO wing. As you probably know, the groups I have in mind are the Popular Struggle Front, the PFLP-General Command, and Al-Sa'iqah in Syria. Just these.

['Ismat] And Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]?

[Kamal] Abu Musa is outside the game. This is a matter for Fatah, rather than the PLO. That much was decided by the Algiers meetings. The issue concerns Fatah to the exclusion of all other factions.

['Ismat] But is it not possible that Abu Musa's guns which are fired every now and then could be silenced through an internal reconciliating effort?

[Kamal] This is up to Fatah.

PLO Seen 'Guiding' West Bank Events

PM0809145788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Sep 88 p 3

[Interview with Dr Sirri Nusaybah, "a prominent Palestinian figure in the occupied territories," by Zaki Musa in London; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Musa] What has been the impact of Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank?

[Nusaybah] Economically, the decision to sever ties is very important because it means that there is an urgent need to find a Palestinian alternative. But it does not mean that there is a problem that cannot be resolved. In practice, most of the affairs that Jordan supervised were in fact run by Palestinians. Our kinfolk in the occupied territories have the capability to continue this. The question now is: Who will supervise these affairs in Jordan's absence. The alternative ought to be the PLO, acting by forming or declaring a government to look after these matters. After that there remains the finance problem, which is very important. This must be studied carefully in order to decide on ways of running affairs. [passage omitted]

[Musa] The question of declaring a government-in-exile is still subject to argument. How do influential figures in the occupied territories view the need for such a government?

[Nusaybah] The general atmosphere does not reflect a particular inclination. My personal view is that the leadership must play its role, which is to lead the masses. Views can differ over a particular inclination with regard to the declaration of a government, a state, a political program, or the initiation of negotiations. It is also possible for differing views to be held among the masses. But, because of these differences, the leadership in particular must play its part by making a decision and leading the people in the right direction. [passage omitted]

[Musa] To what extent are the masses of the internal uprising linked to the PLO outside?

[Nusaybah] As an observer I would say that my experience is that it is the PLO which is running the affairs of the uprising in a general sense. In special cases it is involved in specific matters.

Of course, it was the masses who created the uprising. It is they who have sacrificed their blood and their sons in the streets, not via their loyalty to the PLO but through the organizational reality. What I sense is that it is the PLO which is guiding those who are inside. And anyone who thinks that the uprising has created a gap between the masses and the leadership is mistaken. In fact the opposite is the case: The uprising has strengthened the relationship between the masses and its leadership outside.

[Musa] Early last month a plan was about to be announced in Jerusalem regarding the birth of a Palestinian state. In the light of your experience of the situation, was this true? And what was mentioned about a document found in the [Arab] Studies Center, which resulted in the arrest of Faysal al-Husayni? Was it true?

[Nusaybah] According to what I heard, the strategy of the uprising focused generally on severing links. It was not merely an uprising of stones against Israeli soldiers. This was the dramatic part which drew the attention of viewers via television screens, which was important. But there is another part which is deeper than that, namely the philosophy of the uprising and its strategy, which called for the severance of legal and administrative links with the occupier's institutions. [passage omitted]

The paper found in the Studies Office concerned a part of the studies or a summary of directives and instructions to guide the uprising. So the talk today about declaring an independent state or forming a provisional government has not emerged from a vacuum. It comes as a result of the uprising's interim program aimed at convening an international conference. [passage omitted]

Dissident Leader Assails 'Arafat Policies

JN0409161888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1225 GMT 4 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Damascus, 4 Sep (SANA)—Dr Ilyas Shufani, Fatah Provisional Command member, has asserted that 'Arafat's deviationist course currently present in Baghdad is doing its utmost to create a reactionary alliance between the Iraqi and Egyptian regimes based on hostility to Syria and its pan-Arab role.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published here today, Dr Shufani said having Baghdad as the basis of the 'Arafat movement is not a mere coincidence but a confirmation of an existing alliance with both the Iraqi regime and the Camp David regime in Egypt. These two regimes support 'Arafat in implementing the Palestinian portion of the Camp David accords. Dr Shufani warned that the dangers posed by the 'Arafat-Mubarak-Saddam alliance are not confined to the Palestine question but also include other Arab states of affairs in implementation of the U.S.-Israeli policy hostile to the goals and aspiratons of the Arab masses. [passage omitted]

Dr Shufani urged the PNSF [Palestinian National Salvation Front] to play a pioneering role in mobilizing the national forces and figures and holding a popular conference in Damascus. Such a conference would openly reject 'Arafat's steps and approaches and would also form the national alternative to the deviationist course. This would be the first step to foil this course.

Egypt

Mubarak Sends 'Urgent' Message to Reagan

NC1409123388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 14 Sep (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has disclosed that President Husni Mubarak has sent U.S. President Ronald Reagan an urgent message dealing with some recent developments in the Middle East.

Dr al-Baz arrived in Doha yesterday on a 4-day visit, during which he will convey an oral message from President Mubarak to Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani.

Iraqi Embassy Denies U.S. Ambassador's Claims

NC1409084188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—The Iraqi Embassy in Cairo today strongly denied U.S. allegations that Iraq used chemical weapons during recent operations against Kurds in the northern part of the country. The embassy noted that the Turkish Foreign Ministry and other competent Turkish bodies have definitely affirmed that no evidence exists proving the use of chemical weapons.

In a statement it released this evening in response to allegations made by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner, the Iraqi Embassy said that these claims fall within the framework of the unjust campaign being waged by certain U.S. circles and Zionist bodies to harm Iraq and to divert attention from the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory against the Israeli occupation authorities.

The embassy statement said that Iraq absolutely did not need to resort to chemical weapons because of the limited scope of the military operations, in which not even one-fourth of the Iraqi military force available in the north was used. The embassy asserted Iraq's strong rejection of U.S. interference in Iraq's domestic affairs, and noted the U.S. support for the inhuman Zionist actions against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab land.

'Arafat Reportedly To Visit in 'Next Few Days'

NC1409070488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—A MENA correspondent in Tunis has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo within the next few days. He will be accompanied by a delegation from the PLO Executive Committee.

During the visit, 'Arafat will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak and other senior officials on Palestinian options during the forthcoming stage, in light of the latest Jordanian decision on the occupied West Bank. The correspondent has learned that this visit will be made on the basis of a decision by the PLO Executive Committee.

Omani State Minister Arrives in Cairo 13 Sep

NC1409045888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2124 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo tonight for a visit of several days to Egypt. During his stay, the Omani official will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who met him at the airport.

The Omani state minister stated upon his arrival that his visit to Cairo is taking place within the framework of consultations between Egypt and Oman to review issues of common interest and to discuss recent developments in the Gulf, which are of the utmost importance in the present situation.

Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi said he will brief Egyptian officials on his country's views concerning the situation in the Gulf. He said that during his recent visit to Iran he discussed issues concerning the common interests of both countries. He also discussed with the Iranians the issue of Egyptian prisoners of war in Iran. He said he hopes this issue will be settled in the near future.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran talks in Geneva, the Omani state minister said: I hope that these talks will succeed and provide the two parties with an opportunity to assess what has been achieved and to launch a new round of talks.

Received by Mubarak

NC1409112488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1051 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, at noon today. Also attending the meeting was Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Libya

JANA Editor on FRG Findings on Night Club

LD1309160688 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The West German authorities have announced officially that they did not discover anything proving the identity of those who attacked the West Berlin night club, La Belle, [word indistinct]. [Name indistinct], the spokesman of the general attorney, said yesterday that the police are unable to determine the identity of those behind that attack.

The spokesman further said during an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS agency yesterday: We have not reached any conclusions yet and require the possible witnesses to reveal what they know. He explained that there is no firm evidence to condemn any side for responsibility in the attack. The ASSOCIATED PRESS agency has quoted a statement in the West Berlin-based MORGEN POST by another official spokesman for the office of the German attorney general, saying that the reward for anyone who could indentify the attackers, which amounts to DM150,000, is still valid.

The JANA political editor commented on this matter, saying: These avowals on behalf of official German bodies directly related to the follow-up on the nature and the circumstances of the incident at the German night club are an important and critical document. We want to draw to the attention of the international public, international and regional organizations, and all bodies related to international relations and legal matters to two issues: First, these avowals clearly stress that the inquiries were unable, despite the 2 years that have passed since the incident, to supply any evidence at all, as the German authorities had claimed, about the identity of the perpetrators.

Second, these avowals clearly expose before the world the untrue and false reasoning used by the U.S. Administration in carrying out its wide-scale attack on the Libyan-Arab people, with the intention to harm the leader of its revolution with its premeditated bombing of the leader's home on 15 April, 1986. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

London Paper Details Trial of Ba'thist Group

PM1409085188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 88 p 1

[Abdellahi Ould Mahmadi report: "Trial of Ba'thist Group in Mauritania"]

[Text] Nouakchott, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The trial of the leaders of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, a party banned in Mauritania, has continued for the 3d successive day at the Djereida military base 30 km north west of Nouakchott. Appearing before the special military court headed by Colonel Cheikh Ould Beyda are 12 defendants out of a total of 16, as 4 are at large. The defendants represent the civilian and military leadership of the party. They all face the same charge, namely harming the security of the state, forming within the Army ranks a party military organization belonging to a foreign quarter, and dealing with that quarter in matters concerning national defense.

So far the court has heard most of the defendants, including Mohamed Yehdiha Ould Breidelleil, the former [culture and information] minister who is considered to be the leader of the party in Mauritania. He admitted that there are party structures and activities in Mauritania. He also admitted that he had attended party meetings in the country and in foreign states. He did not deny the accusation against his party with regard to soliciting funds. He said that these used to come regularly via an Arab embassy in Dakar. After that the court heard Deh Ould Houssein and Moukhtar Ould Salek, who are the most sensational participants in the trial because they represent the organization's military command, which was entrusted with party activities within the Army. It received instructions directly from a command in an Arab state, although they have categorically denied their involvement in leading any military organization during their service in the Army where they were in charge of sensitive positions in intelligence. They said they adopted the principles of the Ba'th Party but did not join a political organization.

Some documents containing some codenames concerning the military organization were found, and the court used them as evidence of the existence of the military wing of the party.

Court proceedings are continuing and the defense, consisting of 12 lawyers, is expected to begin their case for the defense today.

Tunisia

AL-ANBA' Interviews President Ben Ali

JN1409103488 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 30

["Text" of interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] A quiet and radical transformation has been taking place in Tunisia since 7 November. How do you assess this stage?

[Ben Ali] Actually, there is no room here to make a comprehensive assessment of that stage in view of the fact that many important decisions were made at that time. However, to give you a clear and general picture of what Tunisia achieved in less than a year since then, it is first necessary to emphasize two basic matters that made the transformation radical and quiet:

First, the decisions and measures taken since 7 November were comprehensive in all the political, economic, social, cultural, and other fields. They were adopted following an assessment and examination of the prevailing situation in these various sectors.

Second, these decisions did not remain mere ink on paper, and that in itself is positive, but also as a result of the impact of the crises the country faced on various levels in the past years, it was necessary to immediately implement the decisions without delay.

With regard to my assessment of that stage I concentrate on the political field in particular. The decisions made in that regard embodied the most important element in the 7 November declaration; namely, reforming the country's political situation which in past years was marked by several negative aspects such as an autocratic tendency in the exercise of power and decisionmaking, the suppression of public freedom, and not allowing the various national political and ideological tendencies to participate in forging the society to which a mature and aware people like the Tunisian people aspire. Therefore, as soon as we assumed power, we hastened to make decisions that aimed to clear the air. Foremost among these decisions was the revision of the constitution, which is the main reference and the ideal legal framework for regulating political life in the country. The decision met a positive response from the various political forces. We also revised the press law to ensure freedom of expression, free from arbitrary constraints. We issued a law on parties that regulates a multi-party system and consolidates the irrevocable turning to democracy. We were not content to make these important decisions which were made in succession in a short time, but we also backed them with a program that calls for asking all the political forces, the intellectual currents, and the nationalist organizations to consider formulating a national charter in the form of a national consensus to offer a number of choices for determining the pattern of society to which we aspire. There has been a meeting of minds on this, and I hope there will be agreement on the charter prior to 7 November 1988.

[Correspondent] How far can the internal political freedom go and how did the opposition forces react to your principles?

[Ben Ali] First of all I want to emphasize that there is no going back on the turn to democracy which everyone wanted for Tunisia. I believe the decisions we made clearly show how far we are prepared to support such a trend. In order to bring about internal political freedom we have lifted all barriers and obstacles that hindered the participation of all parties and political trends in national life. In order to avoid such actions being dependent on personal whims and changing circumstances, we placed it within its legal framework because we believed in the need to protect the turning toward democracy against all deviation whatever its source, be it an individual who favors autocratic views and decisions, or a group that wants to monopolize what might be called the common denominator among all the sides.

[Correspondent] How do you assess your visit to France, the first since you became Tunisian head of state?

[Ben Ali] As you know, this will be my first official visit to France since becoming president. It comes within the framework of longstanding and current ties of traditional friendship between Tunisia and France and is in response to the common desire to guard these relations consistently while seeking to strengthen them further. We attach great importance to the visit, because it will give us the opportunity to discuss major issues of mutual interest on both the bilateral and international levels, to review our cooperation in various fields, and to discuss methods of expanding such cooperation.

[Correspondent] There has been talk of coolness in relations between Tunisia and France since 7 November. Has this matter been resolved? How are relations between the two countries?

[Ben Ali] First of all, I see in commentators' use of the word coolness to describe Tunisian-French relations both exaggeration and haste in passing judgment on our relations during that particular period. The fact is that the change [in Tunisia] was at the time backed and supported by most brothers and friends. Some friends in France were at first enthusiastic but somewhat cautious, because the change surprised them. However, caution does not mean rejection and certainly does not lead to coolness, as demonstrated by the statements by French officials shortly after the change. Those officials clearly expressed their interest in cooperating with the new Tunisia and their desire to enrich such cooperation to elevate it to a high level between the two countries.

[Correspondent] There are 250,000 Tunisians in France awaiting your visit. What do you have to say to them?

[Ben Ali] I have already addressed our expatriate brothers over radio on a previous occasion. I am happy to meet with them again on the air. I would like to express my pride in their hard work and behavior and to assure them that we care a great deal about them, their working and living conditions, and strengthening their ties to the homeland. Undoubtedly, a major part of our talks with French officials will be devoted to studying the conditions of our community in France.

[Correspondent] Tunisian diplomacy is active and highly regarded in the Arab Maghreb. Is it possible to talk about a new role or a new diplomacy?

[Ben Ali] The activity and vitality that marks Tunisian diplomacy in the Maghreb embodies one of the principles of the 7 November Declaration, which emphasized the need to restore to Tunisia its Maghreb dimension in view of our belief in the inevitability of the common destiny of the countries and peoples of the area. In addition to the ties of brotherhood, neighborliness, and joint struggle during the struggle for liberation that bind them, the Maghreb countries now face the same problems and challenges in a world of blocs and groupings.

Therefore, we want to instill a new vitality in our diplomacy so that it can effectively participate in regional efforts to achieve what we are serious in achieving; namely, a Maghreb without borders, capable of confronting the challenges and changes of our age. I

believe that what we have achieved so far in this regard, particularly after the quadripartite meeting in Algiers in June 1988, testifies to the sincerity and seriousness of our efforts.

French Premier Visits, Meets Ben Ali

LD1309203888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] This afternoon President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received at his residence at Palais de Marigny Mr. Michel Rocard, the French prime minister. Following the talks, which lasted for about 1 hour, Mr Michel Rocard made a statement to the press in which he stated he had reviewed with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali the prospects for Tunisian-French relations and the two countries' international commitments. He added: We had lengthy talks on the economy, development, investements, and cooperation.

In reply to a question on the aid which France could give Tunisia to support its efforts in combatting the effects of drought and the locust invasion in the country, the French prime minister said: We dealt with all issues of interest to our relations. Measures and administrative decisions have been taken in this regard.

Concerning the investements of French institutions in Tunisia, Mr Michel Rocard pointed out that the atmosphere in today's Tunisia, which has recovered its tranquillity and come to terms with itself, in addition to its rooted and energetic democracy, creates very suitable conditions for investments.

PDRY

YSP Central Committee Concludes 13th Session

EA0909112888 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Excerpts] At noon today, the YSP Central Committee concluded its 13th ordinary session. The meeting was held 5-7 September under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee.

The Central Committee discussed numerous reports on important organizational issues and political conditions. These were dealt with in the speech of the brother secretary general of the party Central Committee. The committee also discussed the conditions and role of defense and security organs and their development. A number of other reports and issues on the agenda were also covered. [passage omitted]

The committee discussed reports on security and defense. It affirmed that reinforcing and developing the security and defense of our country depends on preserving the revolution and its young progressive regime and on ensuring the continued victory of socialist orientation. In this connection, the Central Committee saluted the heroic role our Armed Forces and the security organs are playing in upholding the gains of the toiling masses and the achievements of the revolution and in defending the homeland. It praised the high morale of servicemen and their contined readiness to march along the road of democratic nationalist revolution with its socialist horizons.

The Central Committee approved an amendment to the statute on cadres specifying the period of time posts may be occupied by leading cadres elected and appointed to party, state, and mass organizations. It provides that the maximum period for leading cadres elected at higher levels will be two consecutive electoral terms, and at local levels, three terms. [passage omitted] The Central Committee expressed confidence in the joint unification work of the two parts of the homeland as the surest path to security and stability in Yemen and the reinforcement of security and stability in the entire region.

The Central Committee also elected Brother Muhammad Haydar Masdus as member of the Political Bureau, Dr Salih Muhsin as secretary of the Central Committee, and Brother Muthanna Salim Askar as deputy secretary of the Central Committee.

Peace Movement Conference Elects Presidium

EA0909213488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The first conference of the Yemeni peace and solidarity movement ended its work this evening. The final session was attended by Brother Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Sihayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of the interior; representatives of the sisterly and friendly peace committee; members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps; and representatives of liberation movements accredited to Aden.

In the final session of the conference the results of the Presidium elections were announced. The conference elected a presidium of 51 members. In the constituent meeting, the Presidium elected the Secretariat as follows: Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, chairman; Khalid Abu Bakr Ba Ras, deputy chairman; and 'Abd al-Wakil al-Saruri; Muhammad Ghalib 'Ali Qa'id Hubani; and (Qand Mansur Matallah). The remaining members of the Secretariat will be elected at a future meeting.

During the session the final statement, resolutions, and recommendations were read aloud. The conference expressed optimism over the new political thinking which came as a natural result of detente in international relations and the growth of the international peace and solidarity movement. The conference pointed out that the positive developments in the relationship between the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland embodied in the 4 May agreement this year constitute a sound start toward achieving the highest and most noble goals of the Yemeni people. It emphasized the importance of accomplishing more steps toward unification along the path of restoring the unity of the homeland as a land and people based on democratic and peaceful principles.

The conference also instructed the elected presidium to continue providing the council's social principle and increase its contribution to the units of the International Peace Council and the African people's solidarity organization, the national organizations and the councils of similar organizations of the friendly and progressive (?countries). [Word indistinct] the peace movement all over the Yemeni homeland.

Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Yemeni Council for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Peoples, delivered a speech at the opening of the session and pointed out that the conference had achieved great success and had outlined the course of future (?progress) of the peace and solidarity movement in our country. He (?called) for efforts to translate its results and resolutions into substantial action and real facts that will ensure a [word indistinct] promotion of all activities of the peace and solidarity movement in its various leadership bodies both at home and abroad.

Official Leaves for Hungary To Discuss Relations

EA0909211188 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Jalil Ghaylan, deputy secretary of the Central Committee, left Aden this morning for a visit to the Hungarian People's Republic which will last several days. In a statement to ANA, Brother 'Abd al-Jalil Ghaylan said his visit to Hungary came as part of

the 1987-88 protocol between the two friendly countries. He said he would meet a number of Hungarian officials and exchange experiences and views on the latest international developments and a number of other issues of interest to the two countries. Ways of developing and strengthening relations would also be discussed.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Cyprus, CSSR

EA0909212488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, Central Committee member and foreign minister, left Aden for Cyprus this morning at the head of a PDRY delegation that will participate in the ministerial conference of nonaligned states. In a statement to ANA, Brother al-Dali spoke of the importance of the conference. [passage omitted]

During his stay in Cyprus, the brother minister will meet his counterparts from sisterly and friendly states. They will discuss ways to strengthen the role of the movement and aspects of cooperation between the PDRY and these states. Brother al-Dali also said that after the final meeting he would go on to the CSSR for an official visit at the invitation of his counterpart, the Czechoslovak foreign minister. During the visit, which will last several days, they will discuss relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to develop and strengthen them in the interests of the two friendly peoples and countries. They will also discuss matters of common interest.

On 20 September the brother foreign minister will lead our country's delegation to the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

Qatar

Amir Meets With Danish Deputy Premier

JN0609162688 Manama WAKH in English 1544 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, Sept 6 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani today received the Danish Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the talks during the meeting covered ways to bolster friendly bilateral relations in energy domains, attest [as received] developments in the region, and means to boost peace efforts currently under way.

Qatari Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Foreign Undersecretary Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, the Danish ambassador to Qatar, and the director of the Political Department at the Danish Foreign Ministry also attended the meeting.

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom 'Condemns' U.S. Senate Sanctions on Iraq

LD1309210888 Riyadh Domesltic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Kingdom has condemned the U.S. Senate's attempts to impose economic sanctions on Iraq for its alleged use of chemical weapons against Kurds. This was stated to SPA by a responsible source.

The source added: While the Kingdom expresses deep regret at these attempts, it reaffirms full support for Iraq in its efforts to establish peace, security, and stability in the Arab Gulf region.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Visiting Danish Minister

JN1009123388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Al-Jarf, 10 Sep (WAKH)—His Excellency Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, this morning received Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and his delegation, currently visiting the UAE.

The meeting dealt with Denmark's desire to bolster common cooperation in all fields with the UAE. They reviewed the situation in the region in light of the latest developments and means to strengthen the peace process between Iraq and Iran.

The meeeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, heir apparent and deputy ruler of Sharjah; Shaykh Hamad ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Hamdan ibn Zayid, deputy foreign minister; and Danish Charge d'Affaires Erik Widner Svenningsen.

Yemen Arab Republic

Unity Minister Leaves For Talks in PDRY

JN1009140088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, state minister for unity affairs, and Standing Committee member, left for Aden today on a visit to the southern part of the homeland. He told SABA' the visit is to pursue talks with his counterpart in the southern part of the homeland brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, YSP Central Committee member. These talks were held on the sidelines of the Arab unity forum, recently concluded in Sanaa. The two will also discuss the work progress of the Secretariat of the Higher Yemeni Council engaged in implementing

the Sanaa summit agreement between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Commitee in the southern part of our homeland, said Al-'Arashi. They will also prepare upcoming unity meetings and resume discussion of a number of unity-related topics.

'Terrorist Plot' Against Olympic Team Discovered

JN1309201788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Competent Iraqi organs have been able to discover the threads of a mean terrorist plot. A group of Kurdish terrorists, residing outside the homeland, intended—through the support, help, and full coordination of the Iranian and Syrian regimes—to assassinate the Iraqi delegation participating in the Seoul Olympic Games. These organs found out about this mean attempt and got the names of its parties from stray Kurds residing outside the country who sold themselves to [word indistinct] and the Iranian and Syrian sides, which stood behind this abortive attempt.

There was coordination with the Korean authorities through the Foreign Ministry, the Iraqi National Olympic Committee, and a meeting between 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee, and the Korean consul in Baghdad. Measures were coordinated with the Korean side. Protection and security measures were tightened around the Iraqi team.

Shame on those who attempted to reach the youths of our Olympic delegation, which is carrying the brilliant picture of the victorious country under the victorious leader Saddam Husayn, while participating in the largest peaceful gathering, the Olympiad.

Further Reportage on Criticisms of U.S. Sanctions

Community in Turkey Assails U.S.

JN1209200788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Ankara, 12 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi community in Turkey condemned the fierce imperialist onslaught against Iraq represented by the Senate decision to impose an economic ban on Iraq.

Iraqi ambassador to Turkey Tariq 'Abd al-Jabbar affirmed during a rally held by the Iraqi community today that Iraq's stunning march will not be hindered by such rash conspiracies which express the prejudice and failings of the United States and Zionists in the world after the great Iraqi victory in the longest and fiercest war. He said that these circles have a spiteful and suspect history. They have been blinded by Iraq's victory and are searching for rotten pieces of paper to use against Iraq which is creating a complex among all imperialist and Zionist circles.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party affirmed in its speech at the rally that the conspiracy which Iraq is being subjected to now will not hinder the march toward victory and progress which Iraq is experiencing under the wing and protection of President Sadam Husayn. During the gathering, an open and general discussion was held on the latest developments in the region.

The participants in the rally—members of the Iraqi community and student and youth organizations—sent a telegram to the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. In the telegram, they condemned the U.S. Senate's decision on measures to boycott Iraq under the pretext that Iraq used chemical weapons against the Kurds without confirming the truth of this information concocted and spread by world Zionism.

The telegram affirmed that this decision and rabid campaign confirm the hatred and prejudice of Zionism toward Iraq and the Arab nation. The aim of this campaign is to delude public opinion and world media about Iraq's achievement in the form of huge victories, and to cover up their repressive and indiscriminate measures against the people of our Arab Palestinian nation, who have just entered the 10th month of their vehement uprising.

Kurdish Party Secretary's View

JN1309101488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0806 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Hashim 'Aqrawi, secretary of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has said that the Kurdish masses strongly reject the immoral position of the U.S. Senate.

In an interview published by the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH here today, Hashim 'Aqrawi said that the Kurdish people know the ill intentions behind the U.S. flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs. He said the Kurdish rejection was expressed through the mammoth demonstrations and marches witnessed by the cities of the autonomous region. He said these demonstrations and marches are the most eloquent response by the Kurdish people in Iraq to the schemes of imperialism, Zionism, and their mercenary agents and traitors.

'Aqrawi praised the RCC decision pardoning Kurds. He said this decision will give new momentum to the autonomy march in the Kurdistan region, especially in enhancing national unity after the misled Kurds discovered the agentry of the clique of sabotage that has been trying to obstruct their enjoyment of their rights and facilitate the Iranian enemy's objective of invading, occupying, and annexing the Kurdistan region to Iran—as happened in Halabjah and other areas—in order to persecute the Kurdish people and deny them their national rights.

The Kurdish official called on all misled Kurds to benefit from the amnesty and to unite in building and defending Iraq. He said: We press all their hands and bless their return and contributions to promoting their autonomy in order to secure a happy future.

Hashim 'Aqrawi praised the great achievements realized for the autonomous region which bolster the Kurdish people's major role in reconstruction, secure success for

the autonomy experience, and remove injustice and deprivation which afflicted the region as a result of the pre-revolution tyrannical policies.

Protest Memos Given to U.S. Embassy

JN1309112588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0942 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Many Arab organizations and unions have handed strongly-worded protest memos to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. They also issued statements condemning the new U.S. plot aimed at harming Iraq and the Arab nation.

In a protest memo handed to the U.S. Embassy by the deputy secretary general of the Arab Trade Workers Union, the Arab trade workers strongly denounced the U.S. Knesset's decision. They also affirmed their unified stand alongside Iraq—both leadership and people.

In a statement today, the general federation for the workers of Palestine—Iraq branch—described the U.S. Senate's decision as an exposed attempt to harm Iraq's great victory, distract world attention from the developments of the Palestinian Arab people's valiant uprising in the occupied territories, and to distract attention from the Zionist crimes against the defenseless people in the occupied homeland.

In a memo handed to the U.S. Embassy, the executive bureau of the Arab Teachers Union affirmed that the measure adopted by the U.S. Senate is flagrant interference in the Arabs' internal affairs and constitutes a violation of the principles of international relations and mutual respect among independent states based on equality, respect for territorial sovereignty, and noninterference in internal affairs.

EC Told Chemical Weapons Not Used

JN1309151088 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Ankara, Sept. 13, INA—Turkey has informed the EC that its statement confirming that Iraq did not use chemical weapons was based on facts and research carried out by Turkish medical societies and security organs.

In a statement to INA, Turkish Foreign Ministry sources said the ministry informed Greece of that in its capacity as chairman of the current EC session. The sources added that the statement came in reply to enquiries made by the Greek ambassador to Turkey in the name of the EC.

The sources added that Turkey is not concerned with the American allegations and that from its side it confirms that Iraq did not use chemical weapons.

Earlier, the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement stressing that Iraq had not used such weapons and that Kurds now present in the Turkish territories are not affected by cases caused by chemical weapons.

Turkish medical teams who were assigned to check up Kurds in the camps confirmed that they had not treated any case caused by the use of chemical weapon and that most of them suffer from trachoma, malaria and other illnesses frequent in remote mountainous areas where they lived.

Another Session of Direct Negotiations Held

JN1309130388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 13 Sep (INA)—A session of direct Iraqi-Iranian negotiations was held on the ministerial level at the Palais de Nations at the UN European Headquarters at 1308 today.

The Iraqi side to the negotiations was led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; while the Iranian side was led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The INA correspondent says that today's session of direct negotiations is the fourth in the series of direct negotiations held since 25 August and the second since Saturday [10 September].

Neither Tariq 'Aziz nor 'Ali Akbar Velayati made any statements to reporters upon their arrival at the Palais de Nations at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva. The session lasted for 40 minutes. After the session was concluded, the Iraqi delegation led by Tariq 'Aziz left the UN European Headquarters without making any statement.

Delegation Issues Statement

JN1309181788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 13 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi delegation has affirmed that it is necessary to fix a binding and agreed-upon date for the next direct negotiations meeting in Geneva.

In a statement issued here today, the delegation pointed out that "the party which leaves the date unfixed will shoulder the responsibility for the ensuing consequences." The statement indicated that the Iraqi delegation agreed to go to New York on this basis and also to attend one meeting, provided that the direct negotiations resume on the fixed date. The text of the statement issued by the Iraqi delegation to the Geneva negotiations follows:

A meeting was held between the Iraqi and Iranian delegations under the auspices of the representative of the UN secretary general. The representative of the UN

secretary general informed the two sides of an invitation extended to them by the UN secretary general to come to New York to hold a meeting to continue the negotiations which began on 25 August 1988.

The Iraqi delegation voiced its opinion that it is necessary to fix a binding and agreed-upon date for holding the next direct negotiations meeting in Geneva before the two delegations leave Geneva. The Iraqi delegation agreed to go to New York on this basis and to attend one meeting, provided that the direct negotiations resume on the fixed date.

The Iraqi delegation also informed the representative of the UN secretary general that the foreign minister cannot go to New York before the first week of October.

[Dated] 13 September 1988

INA Notes Information Minister's VOA Interview

JN1209173588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has said Iran is violating the cease-fire by rejecting unobstructed navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Gulf.

In an interview with VOA this evening, he added that Iran is impeding endeavors to clear the Shatt al-'Arab. This conflicts with the agreement reached in accordance with the principles in President Saddam Husayn's 6 August message. These principles were the basis for the cease-fire. Jasim asserted that Iraq demands that the cease-fire be documented, that the Shatt al-'Arab be cleared, and that direct face-to-face negotiations continue in Geneva. He said Iran insists on indirect negotiations and seeks to move them to New York. Geneva is the most appropriate venue for negotiations due to, among other things, the presence in the United States of distortion and suspect media as well as international political interference.

The culture and information minister said direct negotiations are necessary so each party will understand the other's viewpoint. It is also necessary for the United Nations to clear the Shatt al-'Arab and entrench the cease-fire officially according to the bases and considerations agreed upon with the UN secretary general in light of President Saddam Husayn's 6 August message.

The minister emphasized that Iraq has full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab. He asserted that Iran cannot adhere to the 1975 agreement because it actually canceled this agreement by violating its articles through its insistence on not returning the Iraqi lands of Sayf Sa'd and Zayn al-Qaws, which were occupied during the shah's era. Moreover, Iran interfered in Iraqi internal affairs when it recalled Barzani's sons from the United States and supplied them with subversive tools. Iran also launched more than 400 land, air, and naval aggressions against Iraq and threatened the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran as well as the Iraqi Consulate and schools in Iran.

Jasim asserted that Iraq and Iran face a new situation necessitating the conclusion of a new agreement between the two countries. Such an agreement should not grant rights to either party at the expense of the other country's sovereignty. He said the new agreement that Iraq seeks to conclude with Iran should be entrenched and guaranteed by the Security Council and international bodies on the basis that the Shatt al-'Arab is under Iraqi sovereignty and at Iraq's disposal—in its capacity as Iraq's only vital access to the sea—and that Iran's rights to navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab are secured.

Jasim asserted that history indicates that all Iraqi-Iranian agreements have been canceled except the 1913 agreement. This places both Iraq and Iran in a new situation, which necessitates the conclusion of a new agrement according to these bases. He added that peace has been and continues to be an Iraqi peace, as mentioned in President Saddam Husayn's 6 August message. This message resolved the impasse in the Security Council when President Saddam agreed to a cease-fire on condition that it be followed by direct negotiations. The cease-fire must include freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, he added.

The minister said the unjust campaign launched by Zionist circles and more particularly the shadow of Zionism, the American Knesset, and by British media came as no surprise to Iraq. None of these are happy to see Iraq emerge so powerful, having crushed Iran's military capability and arrogance.

Iraq, he added, has emerged from the war a giant with a 1 million-strong army and over 50 armed divisions, a formidable air force, and an arsenal of weapons and missiles. Such a force is surely frightening them, having counted on a war weary Iraq. It was not unexpected that the storm would blow the way it has, said the minister, stressing that Iraq has no fear of such storms.

The minister of culture and information said the anti-Iraq effort has clear aims, namely to introduce diversions from such hot issues as the uprising of the Palestinian people which is now nagging American Zionists. They are seeking to use the flight of the agent pocket and its collapse to distract attention from what is happening in the occupied land, giving prominence in the media to flimsy charges.

He emphasized that, militarily speaking, Iraq has had no need to resort to chemical weapons, since the operations were, as a matter of fact, not commensurate with the size of the army deployed in the north. One fourth of the military stationed in the north would have trounced the crumbling remnants in a matter of 2 days, the minister added. He said the traitors have sought to use the

civilians whom they forced to flee as a bargaining chip in the interest of other aims that came to light following the media drive orchestrated from overseas.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim added: Facts cannot be changed; the Turks have issued statements emphasizing more than once that no chemical weapons were used, and that Kurds are now returning in thousands to the homeland in response to the general amnesty offered by the RCC, regardless of the offenses they committed in the north.

The minister hoped all will have returned before the cold winter sets in, warning that traitors are trying to obstruct the return of the Kurdish citizens. He declared that the hostile media drive has failed with facts coming to light and Kurds returning to their homeland. The Americans, he added, have gotten themselves into trouble by making statements based on unsubstantiated allegations. The Iranians made films about Halabjah which U.S. media are showing to portray the situation of Kurds now housed in camps along the border with Turkey. The minister added that there are Zionist forces behind the anti-Iraq campaign, but that lies are short-lived. He said Iraq could not care less about the hostile campaign or the bill passed by the American Senate whether or not it was approved by President Reagan and the House of Representatives. He warned that any escalation of action by the United States will adversely affect relations with Washington and its regional interests.

Oil Tanker Returns to Basrah After Aden Trip

JN1309144188 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Basrah, Southern Iraq, Sept. 13, INA—The Iraqi oil tanker 'Ayn Zalah returned at 17:00 hours yesterday afternoon to the port of Khawr al-Zubayr in the southern Iraqi province of Basrah after it had unloaded its cargo of Iraqi crude oil in the Aden refinery after the ceasefire had come into effect on August 20 last.

On this occasion a celebration was held today in Khawr al-Zubayr during which the gift of President Saddam Husayn was distributed among the 31-person oil tanker crew.

'Ayn Zalah is the first Iraqi oil tanker that starts the sailing of the Iraqi oil tankers fleet abroad after a stop of 8 years as a result of the war of aggression imposed on Iraq by the Iranian regime.

The celebration ceremony was attended by Iraq's Minister of Oil Mr. 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, a number of Iraqi officials in the Basrah Province, commander of the Naval Force and Coastal Defence, officials of the Ministries of Oil and Transport and Communications and large numbers of Basrah citizens.

During his meeting with the 'Ayn Zalah oil tanker crew, the oil minister said that the staff of oil sector have new duties on land and in the sea to acheive vital projects and revive other projects in the light of President Husayn's instructions to contribute in supporting Iraq's national economy.

The minister added that all Iraqi oil tankers were working abroad and did not stop their work except for 'Ayn Zalah which stopped due to the Iranian aggression. It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi oil tanker 'Ayn Zalah had left Khawr al-Zubayr port several hours after the implementation of ceasefire on August 20 last carrying 17 thousands tonnes of Iraqi oil and had reached Aden refinery at the end of last August.

Oil Ministry Discloses Documents on 'Aggression'

JN1109161588 Baghdad INA in English 1550 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 11, INA—Official documents announced by the Iraqi Oil Ministry today disclosed further evidence and facts confirming Iran's responsibility for starting the war before the 4th of September, 1980.

The ministry documents indicated that Iraqi oil installations were subject to aggressive armed acts before that date causing in them damages and suspension of oil pumping in some cases.

The documents say that pumping of oil was completely stopped in Al-Wand [placename as received] refinery on 22nd July, 1980, 42 days before the start of the Iranian aggression on Iraq due to Iranian military aggressions along the borders.

The documents added that those aggressions also caused the closing down of oil wells No. 21 and 22 near the borders.

The documents further indicated that in July 1980, pumping of oil was completely suspended in Al-Dawrah refinery as a result of the intensive Iranian shelling of the border Naft Khaneh which supply the refinery with rude [as received] oil.

The ministry documents further disclosed that production in Naft Khaneh was suspended completely since that time. The documents further disclosed that Naft Khaneh area was subject to a new Iranian shelling that continued for seven hours on July 29, 1980 causing damages in major pumping and degasing stations and oil pipelines.

The oil ministry documents further disclosed that on 9th August, 1980, the Iranian enemy resumed shelling of Naft Khaneh for three consecutive hours causing damages in the production pipes and the water and power networks. In Sept. 1980, Iraqi oil installations were the target of continued enemy shelling between 4 and 7th Sept.

The ministry documents confirmed that the Iranian enemy started armed aggression on Iraq before Sept. 1980 and was followed by subversive operations and propaganda campaigns implying interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

Commentary on 'Arafat Speech in Strasbourg

'Nothing New' in Speech

TA1409113188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Official sources in Jerusalem say there is nothing new in Yasir 'Arafat's speech to the European Parliament and have voiced regret over 'Arafat's meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Jack Katzenell reports:

The prime minister's bureau expressed regret over the French foreign minister's meeting with the terrorist leader. In the past, the bureau noted, when French foreign ministers met 'Arafat, it was always during a tour of this or that Arab country. This is the first time that such a meeting has taken place on French soil, and Israel took a very grave view of this development. The meeting would not contribute to peace, the bureau said, and would encourage terrorism.

The Foreign Ministry made strenuous efforts to prevent the meeting between Dumas and 'Arafat, and at one point Foreign Ministry sources say they were even promised by the French that the meeting would not take place. But the French say the European Parliament in Strasbourg is extraterritorial, and therefore the meeting is not taking place on French soil. However, this cuts little ice in Jerusalem, where it is noted that Dumas traveled to Strasbourg specially to meet the PLO chairman.

Both the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry sources say there is nothing new in 'Arafat's speech to the European Parliament yesterday. It was what he always says for Western ears, one source said, and it was a disappointment to those who invited him, such as the chairman of the Council of Ministers, who called on the PLO to renounce terrorism unequivocally—but to no avail.

Pro-PLO Palestinians Satisfied

TA1409115688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Palestinians supportive of the PLO expressed satisfaction with Yasir 'Arafat's appearance at the European Parliament. Gaza Attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah told reporter Steve Rodan that the 'Arafat speech will boost the PLO's image, but that he didn't see any change in the organization until the convening of the PNC.

[Begin Abu Rahmah recording] It's an important step, and it's a good bridge which will support the gulf between the Israelis and the Palestinians. And we hope that Europe can play a role. I think only after the PNC we can give a clear-cut policy. [end recording]

Shamir Interviewed on Uprising, Peace, U.S.

TA1309132488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 13 Sep 88

["Special" New Year's interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by IDF Radio commander Nahman Shay and Goni Savir; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Savir] We have often heard criticism, even from Likud ranks, on the way the uprising has been handled. Are you pleased with the methods employed to quell it? Does the Qalqilyah operation, for example, herald the launching of a new policy?

[Shamir] I would not like to see this issue turned into a political football. I always stress that this issue should not become a bone of contention in interpartisan political discussions. Defense problems are by nature a general national issue, and this is how they should be perceived. Of course, there is always room to demand improvement, changes, or greater efficiency—but not against a political background. Thus, we may find a Likud member who is pleased with the current state of affairs, while an Alignment figure is not and demands stricter or more effective measures; and vice versa.

[Savir] What about yourself? Are you pleased?

[Shamir] First of all, I see the problem as confined exclusively to the defense sphere, not the political. This is because, as I said before, I see no other alternative to putting an end to this phenomenon. What is being done in Qalqilyah is a necessity. It must continue, and even more firmly. The Arabs residing in those areas must understand that we are determined to put an end to the violence. Right now we know them better and are more familiar with the various bodies pulling the strings within this framework. I am, therefore, convinced that we will be able to quell it.

[Shay] How much effort, time, or thought do you devote to this issue? How much time did you devote to the matter in the latest meetings or discussions you held?

[Shamir] It bothers me very much. At the moment it is at the top of our agenda. It occupies the same place in the minds of every Israeli citizen, not just the man who holds state office. We know precisely the thoughts, considerations, and handicaps which the defense establishment encounters. Therefore, I would advise against anyone's going to Qalqilyah to carry out this important operation, claiming that even if it succeeds, we should not expect an end to the stonings as a result. This only exposes gaps in our adamant resolve, and encourages our adversaries. We must continue in our determination to end this business. If afterwards, there are sporadic incidents here and there, we will handle them as such.

[Shay] One of the branches entrusted with combating terrorism is the Shin Bet. This body has experienced some difficult years. As the man in charge of that branch, do you feel that the Shin Bet has overcome the turmoil and can execute its job properly?

[Shamir] The Shin Bet functions excellently. While it is true it went through some hard times, it has surmounted the difficulties. It currently operates with full force and dedication, showing no hesitation, and never contemplating anything that could interfere with its determination to stem Arab violence. The Shin Bet's history of eradicating waves of Arab terrorism is glorious. It did not achieve that alone, of course, but it nevertheless contributed a substantial share to the effort to prevent hostile terrorist activity. At the moment the Shin Bet is striving to accomplish the same operational perfection in its fight against the riots in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as it did before. I believe it is approaching this perfection. [passage omitted]

[Savir] The world sees the intifada [uprising] as a political process. Moreover, Israel has been and will be subjected to international pressure to thaw the current freeze in the talks. A good case in point is, perhaps, the meeting of the foreign ministers, chaired by President Reagan, scheduled for the end of this month. Do you think it will be possible to maintain the freeze for long?

[Shamir] There is no freeze. This is a term that has somehow taken hold in the media. The fact of the matter is that there is an ongoing effort to convince the international community of the justness of our cause. If various international elements regard the PLO as an entity that will fulfill some political role in the region, this does not obligate us to accept this view, even if it is currently prevalent or common worldwide. The fact of the matter is that the international community, by and large, does not accept our positions. This is a fact. Yet, this in no way forces us to change our opinion or views. We know of many cases throughout the history of countries successfully withstanding positions that were shared by most of the countries of the world. In any case, we have no other choice. We cannot accept the position of France, Britain, Canada, the Soviet Union, or even that of the United States with regard to Israel's borders, the status of Jerusalem, or our relations with the terrorist organizations. Therefore, we must not despair. We must pursue our efforts until we succeed. I know that normally other countries accept certain realities. If we persist in our line, they will accept it.

[Shay] What political plan will be discussed in the upcoming meeting [between Shultz, Peres, and 'Abd al-Majid]: the Alignment's political plan or the Likud's?

[Shamir] I presume they will discuss the Shultz plan.

[Shay] If I am not mistaken, the Likud and the Alignment both have different opinions about it?

[Shamir] Certainly. There are definitely differences of opinion. The Shultz plan accepts the international conference.

[Shay] One that you rejected.

[Shamir] I still firmly oppose it. I hope that after the elections we will no longer hear of it. I also do not think that Egypt currently regards an international conference as the ultimate hope. That is why I maintain that this meeting will have no effect whatsoever on the peace process or any political process that could take place in our region, because whatever is debated there will not be binding on the Government of Israel.

[Shay] Do the various U.S. statements made recently not indicate an erosion in the traditional solid U.S. support for Israel, particularly that of the incumbent administration?

[Shamir] I would not rush to say so. We have a very firm status in our relations with the U.S. Government, and by that I include Congress as well. Although I fear that perhaps some of us here in Israel have not given it sufficient thought, we have achieved what can be called a formalization of every aspect of our relations with the United States: the latest memorandum of understanding that President Reagan and I signed on Israel's last independence day. That memorandum stipulates that Israel and the United States are allies who must and will cooperate in almost every sphere—in the strategic field, in economics, in the political sphere—within fixed operational frameworks, irrespective of differences of opinion that might periodically emerge.

[Savir] Such as the condemnation of the deportations? Is this a legitimate difference of opinion?

[Shamir] Yes, I would say that this a jarring note. There can be differences of opinion. Yet when the United States did come out with statements about the deportations, it announced simultaneously that they do not and will not affect the nature of relations between Israel and the United States. That is why State Department officials were annoyed with the publicity accorded these remarks. After all, when differences emerge between allies, the parties make efforts not to publicize them.

[Shay] Mr Shamir, the superpowers are engaged in a rapprochement, developing a sweet romance. How far and to what extent do you think it will also affect the situation in the Middle East?

[Shamir] It does not necessarily have to have an impact; certainly not a crucial influence, although it may have some import. The United States and the Soviet Union differ even today. We heard it just yesterday, when the Soviet Union criticized the planned meeting in Washington. There are differences of opinion, and they are very deep and serious. On the other hand, for instance, there is a broad range of agreement between the United States and the NATO countries in Europe. At the same

time, U.S. policy toward the Middle East and Israel is diametrically opposed to that of its own allies in Europe. This is a fact. Consequently, I imagine that the Soviet Union and the United States can have excellent relations even though their policy toward the Middle East would still differ. [passage omitted]

Shamir Leaves on Official Visit to Hungary

TA1409075488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir left this morning for Hungary. This afternoon he will meet in Budapest with Karoly Grosz, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, and with Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi. This is the first visit by an Israeli prime minister to Hungary since diplomatic ties between the two countries were severed 21 years ago. [passage omitted]

Weizman Voices Opinions on PLO, Peace

JN1309122488 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 5

[Dispatch from Jerusalem by Amirah Hasan]

[Text] The left wing of the Labor Party lost against the right wing in the battle for amending the political program and for proposing the Palestinian option. Minister Weizman, who directs the Labor Party's election campaign, tells me there is a balance between the hawks and the doves in the Labor Party. Today, the Labor Party members are eagles about the political program.

Weizman said: I proposed very important ideas inside the party. One of these is that the PLO, which believes in the Palestine [National] Charter, and any other organization which does not recognize Israel and the national existence of the Jewish people and which deals in a terrorist way, cannot be a party to the negotiations. Any side which does not believe in the charter and which recognizes Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 can be a party to the negotiations.

There is a sort of open door policy toward the Palestine question, but this is not as others hope it to be. Today, the Labor Party includes eagles and it gives hope for the Israeli people and for negotiations with the Arab world and with anybody who wants to negotiate with us.

I said to him: Even the PLO?

He said: Anybody who does not call for the annihilation of Israel and who recognizes Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338. It is important that the PLO announces that it has abolished the charter which calls for the destruction of Israel.

I interrupted him saying: Do not the statements made by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Bassam Abu Sharif, and Faysal al-Husayni respond to the conditions you lay?

Weizman said: It is about time that Palestinians talk to us in a more serious manner based on recognizing us. They must have a firm word and a single message.

I asked him: In return for what? And with whom?

Weizman said: With any leadership that is authorised to negotiate, and open a dialogue with us just as Sadat came and negotiated with us. Even Iraq and Iran announced a cease-fire.

Weizman said: The negotiations are open. Abu Iyad's statements through the media and the press are not enough. The Palestinian leadership must declare that it is willing to coexist with, and recognize Israel. It must also have the authority to negotiate with me.

I interrupted him saying: With you as an individual or as a representative of the Labor Party? And, what will the negotiations be about and in return for what?

Weizman said: On the basis of Resolution No 242 and about the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with Egypt and Jordan.

I said: Does the Labor Party refuse to deal with realities after the disengagment of ties between the two banks [of the Jordan]?

Weizman said: If you mean negotiating with the PLO, then we are ready to negotiate and open a dialogue. I talk on behalf of the Labor Party with the conditions which we demand. When Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] changes the Palestine Charter, I will talk to him.

I said: Again, on what? And, what areas is the Labor Party ready to give back?

Weizman said: I cannot give you any information, particularly after Shamir stated that no single inch of land will be returned. This is nonsense because the Camp David [accords] state that certain areas must be returned. We are ready to negotiate and talk within three [as published] frameworks:

1. Although you are an Arab, I will say this to you frankly. We lean toward a Jewish majority with rights for the Arab minority. I endeavor to achieve this.

2. Solving the Palestine question. This is only possible if there were not part of the Arab inhabitants under our authority. [sentence as published]

I said: How do you view the plan to declare a Palestinian government-in-exile?

Weizman said: A government-in-exile is not important to me. I want a Palestinian leadership to hold a dialogue with me. We can solve the problem with those who talk about peace and recognize Israel.

I interrupted him saying: Those recognizing Israel and talking about peace find themselves either deported or in jail.

Weizman said: As you know, the past 9 months have witnessed violence and riots. We have to stop them. Many defense ministers in the world are doing more than Rabin.

I said: What are the points of agreement between the Labor Party and the Likud?

Weizman said: I do not test the participant. But the Labor Party gives hope to the Israeli people and calls for coexistence with the Arab world. We maintain the peace treaty with Egypt and we want to talk to King Husayn and Shultz. The Likud has foiled this and deviated from the peace treaty. The Labor Party gives hope and the Likud says there is no one to talk to. I say that talking to the PLO is better than searching for moderate Palestinians.

I said: Is the Labor Party ready to talk to the PLO?

Weizman said: Why are my statements separated from those of the Labor Party? I am talking about the 1967 borders and not the 1947 partition. I am talking about a joint life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The way is open for Egypt and Jordan to enter into negotiations.

I asked: How will the Labor Party cope with the uprising if it wins in the elections?

Weizman said: Only through a political solution. We will not wait until the uprising stops.

I interrupted him saying: What about Rabin's way?

Weizman avoided answering and said he would not answer.

I said: You have retreated from your previous positions, I mean before the elections.

Weizman became nervous and said: If you want the Likud to win, let it win. He adds: Everybody should know that the Likud is Gush Emunim and Kahane. Do not think that my life after the uprising has been an easy one. Once the uprising started, I was ashamed to enter the Arab villages in Galilee as I used to do before the uprising.

Weizman shouts saying: What do you want Rabin to do? I am not Israel's government. We have to remember that the situation is very difficult. Calm cannot be restored without harming the image of man. A battalion commander was expelled after he opened fire without reason.

I interrupted him saying: But there are other hundreds who opened fire and were not expelled.

Weizman: You should know that I am very sad as a result of these incidents.

I interrupted: Sadness is not enough.

Weizman said: The reason is that 10 years after the peace treaty, the autonomy rule has not been implemented, settlements have been established, we entered Lebanon, difficult circumstances were created between us and Egypt, Egypt recalled its Ambassador Basyuni when Perez was prime minister, and the Likud prevented autonomy.

Regarding the uprising, I do not avoid answering. It erupted because there is no political settlement from the Likud. Second, quelling demonstrations and thousands of detainees. This makes me very sad. Third, Rabin is the one who deports and detains.

Peres Leaves for UK; Comments on Nathan Talks

TA1409073888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left this morning for London to meet with Prime Minister Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Howe.

Upon his departure he said that a supreme effort is needed to stop the erosion in European support. France and Britain play an important role in this matter. The arena should not be left to the PLO alone, he stressed.

Answering a question on the appropriate way to deal with Abie Nathan, who met with 'Arafat, Peres said that this matter lies within the state attorney's jurisdiction; however, everyone should judge for themselves. The prime minister's office announced yesterday that an inquiry into the matter is planned.

'Mixed Reception' on Nathan-'Arafat Meeting

TA1309195088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Abie Nathan's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis several days ago has received a mixed reception in political circles. The Prime Minister's Office said the meeting is a grave act which contravenes the law, and that when Abie Nathan returns to Israel he will be questioned by the authorized bodies.

The head of the Tehiya movement complained to the police against Abie Nathan and called on the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the attorney general to arrest Nathan on his return to Israel.

The Progressive List for Peace praised Abie Nathan. The movement's leaders called on the prime minister to abrogate the law banning meetings with PLO leaders.

Our party affairs correspondent Hanan Azran reports that MAPAM also praised Abie Nathan, who in his meeting with 'Arafat presented an Israeli-Palestinian peace plan.

The Labor Party avoided making any comment on the meeting this evening.

Druze Village To Assist 'Adopted' Lebanese Town

TA1309124088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The local council of Julis, in the Galilee, has adopted the south Lebanese Druze township of Hasbayya. Julis Mayor Salah Tarif has told our correspondent that the move was made at the request of the Hasbayya local council. He claimed that Julis will assist in repair work on Hasbayya's water system, as well as gardening and sports activities in the adopted township.

Our correspondent points out that this is the first time that a Druze local council has adopted a Druze village in southern Lebanon.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

4 'Rioters' Wounded by IDF

TA1309152688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] One rioter was slightly wounded when shot by the IDF in Rafah this morning. Two rioters were shot and wounded, one seriously, in the Al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip last night. An UNRWA warehouse near Khan Yunus went up in flames this morning. The reason for the fire is still unknown.

A resident of Nuba near Hebron was wounded when hit by a plastic bullet. The soldiers fired after being stoned. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in an operation initiated by the IDF, some 30 suspects were detained for rioting and attacking Israeli vehicles in the village of Bal'a near Tulkarm.

11 Wounded in Gaza Strip Camps

TA1309171488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] During the past 24 hours in the Gaza Strip, 11 rioters were wounded in the Al-Shati', Jabalyah, Rafah, and Al-Burayj refugee camps. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a resident of Dayr al-Balah, who was suspected of collaborating with Israel, was attacked. A burning tire and a gas cannister was hurled into his office. The cannister exploded, but nobody was hurt.

Qalqilyah Operation 'Successful'

TA1409054588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] After 8 days, the Army this morning lifted the curfew from the Samarian town of Qalqilyah. The Army pulled out of the town after making nearly 200 arrests of suspected Palestinian inciters. Steve Rodan reports:

The 8-day Army operation in Qalqilyah ended this morning. Before dawn, hundreds of troops left the Samarian town and announced the lifting of the curfew. Nearly 30,000 residents were confined to their homes since last week as troops searched for suspected organizers of the disturbances in Qalqilyah, in which Israeli cars were repeatedly pelted by stones and sometimes by firebombs. Phone links with Qalqilyah had been cut off and electricity and water supplies were interrupted.

By early this week, Arab sources said, the curfew was being widely violated. On Sunday night, Qalqilyah residents reportedly clashed with troops and set up roadblocks and burned tires. The following day, several Qalqilyah residents slipped out of town and met with a delegation headed by Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari of the Progressive List for Peace.

This morning the Army says that the operation in Qalqilyah was successful. Nearly 200 arrests were made, all of them appearing on a list of suspects drawn up by the security services. The suspects included nearly all of the members of the outlawed popular committee, said to have been responsible for the attacks on Israeli civilian and military vehicles.

But Qalqilyah was not the only town where the Army carried out sweeps. Soldiers raided five villages around the Samarian town of Tulkarm. Yesterday, soldiers raided the village of Dayr Ballut near Qalqilyah and just east of the Israeli town of Rosh Ha'ayin. Military sources say about 20 people were arrested. The village had been the scene of stone-throwing attacks on cars from the neighboring settlement of Bet Arye.

Yattah Council Resigns

TA1409093988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Sep 88 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At Yattah near Hebron, six of the seven local council members resigned, heeding calls by Palestinian militants, local sources said. In Hebron, businessmen said they were organizing a local guard to protect stores against a wave of burglaries. The guard, to be equipped with clubs and walkie-talkies, will replace local policemen who left their posts in the wave of resignations by West Bank police. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Deny U.S. Invitation To Attend Meeting

JN1309110988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Sep (WAKH)—Jordanian sources have denied that the U.S. Administration has invited Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri to attend the meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers on 26 September.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, published in Abu Dhabi today, the sources stressed that Jordan will not attend any meeting to be attended by an Israeli official outside the framework of the international peace conference. The sources added that U.S. officials said that there are no plans to invite a Jordanian delegation, an Arab state, or any other group to attend this meeting.

AL-DUSTUR on Meeting With Palestinian Team

JN1109085488 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Sep p 1

[Text] Amman—It was learned yesterday from a responsible source from the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to support the uprising that the committee will meet in Amman in the middle of this month. During the meeting, the current situation in the occupied territories will be evaluated and a schedule will be drawn up for work priorities in connection with supporting the uprising and revising its activities in the coming period. It will also discuss the means and methods of backing the financial resources of the support fund—according to the needs of the popular uprising in the occupied territories—and examining its style of action and frameworks in light of the latest developments of disengaging legal and administrative ties with the occupied territories. During the meeting, the Jordanian side will be headed by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and the Palestinian side by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin.

Interior Minister on West Bank, Passports

JN1009084988 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Sep 88 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani by AL-RA'Y Chief Editor Rakan al-Majali in Amman—date not given]

[Text] Question: The first question that suggests itself strongly concerns the effects of the disengagement [of ties with the West Bank], particularly the issue of passports, on the kinfolk in the occupied homeland.

Answer: The disengagement decision has led to many measures and the Interior Ministry, as the one responsible for the people's affairs, is perhaps more concerned with this issue than any other ministry or quarter. Therefore, dealing with this new situation is one of the most important duties and responsibilities of the Interior Ministry. The most important aspect is the issue of passports and nationality. The decision was clear in considering those residing on the West Bank before 31 July 1988 as Palestinians, and those residing on the East Bank as Jordanians.

Moreover, the true and accurate meaning of this is that every citizen who is residing on the West Bank or whose normal place of residence is on the West Bank is a Palestinian. Naturally, we exempted from that everyone who is carrying a yellow card. However, the criterion in this instance is not the card as much as the natural place of residence. Many persons left the West Bank to work abroad under contracts. They left for the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, or any other state. The usual place of residence of such people is naturally the West Bank as I have already said. For this to be in harmony with the decision, it should be noted that the issue is not one of who was residing; there are people who were not residing there before 31 July. So how can their case be interpreted? The interpretation is that they follow their natural place of residence. When the person working in the Gulf or elsewhere returns home, he returns to the West Bank because his home and family are there and he settles on the West Bank. I cannot tell such a person to be Jordanian. That cannot be. He is naturally Palestinian and is allowed to reside there as he originally resided there and left according to a permit. This permit gives him the right to return to the West Bank to reside in his natural place of residence. He went out for work purposes. I cannot empty the West Bank of its inhabitants under the pretext that anyone who is outside the West Bank is Jordanian and inside it Palestinian. If I do so, tomorrow I will face a difficult situation when I find that tens of thousands of people who left the West Bank for work or study purposes are residing abroad. What I want to say is that I cannot exclude them from this decision. Otherwise, I will be contradicting myself as well as the decision—its meaning and dimensions. I would thus permit the emptying of the West Bank of large numbers of its original residents. These people should return, and we are eager to return them to the West Bank and keep them there. To facilitate their life and enable them to earn their living and support their families, we allowed them to benefit from work opportunities abroad, so we allowed them to leave and work there.

In this regard, a large number of them naturally carry green cards valid for 1 year. I was always eager to explain this to people. O brothers, nothing has changed in our measures on the bridges and green cards except the duration of the visit. It was 3 months and became 1 month. Originally it was 1 month but we extended it later. Now we are cutting it down again to 1 month out of our desire to see the people return to the West Bank. When one is absent for 3 months, he may be presented with the chance of settling abroad. I do care if he returns. As for those who left for work, study, or medical treatment, the periods given to them remained as they were and are governed by the previous laws and instructions. People were confused and asked what the green or yellow card is, as if this is a residence card. It is not a residence

card; it is only part of an organizational process to control the people's entry into or departure from the West Bank so that we will continue to watch and follow up the people's movement in order to keep them in the occupied territories.

Question: Then every person who has a green or yellow card is a citizen at the end?

Answer: What governs this question, I mean who is Palestinian and who is Jordanian, is the place of normal residence. This means that if a person goes to work in Kuwait and returns to spend his vacation on the West Bank because his home is there, then his normal residence is on the West Bank. You cannot say that his normal residence is on the East Bank. He is only traveling through the East Bank.

But, a large number of people hold yellow cards. These people were not living on the West Bank, and they have no place of permanent residence, but they have properties there. They previously had investments and business on the West Bank. To preserve their money and property, they obtained family reunion cards so that these properties are not considered absentee properties and therefore confiscated by Israel. A family reunion permit gives such a person the right to live on the West Bank any time he chooses. If he chooses the West Bank to be his normal residence, then he can do this. From the beginning, we considered any person with such a case to be excluded from these instructions, and considered him a Jordanian citizen according to his current and normal circumstance. But if he chooses the West Bank to be his normal residence and says that he wants a 2-year passport and does not want a Jordanian passport and nationality, then this is his own business. I do not object, and of course the choice is his. Why? Because the subject of nationality, and holding that nationality, is the right of the individual, who has the right to choose. If someone says to you that he wants to become a Canadian, he submits an application and says: I want to relinquish my Jordanian nationality and become a Canadian or an American, then we do not object.

Question: The subject of family reunion cards is not very clear. Among the same family, there are some who have a family reunion card while others do not.

Answer: This subject may be a bit complicated for people who do not know all the details on this subject, and for people who think that these measures are to divide people by knife into east and west. A person who holds a 2-year passport has all the rights and privileges enjoyed by a Jordanian citizen regarding movement, travel, buying, and using his money in any way without restriction. For example, you find in the same family that the father does not have a family reunion card—and there are many cases like this—while the rest of the family are on the West Bank. Those on the West Bank are Palestinians and the father is Jordanian. Some might say that we separate members of the same family and divide the family into two. I say no. In reality, they are one family. This situation has prevailed and continues to prevail until now. The only difference is that these are holding 2-year passports, while the others hold 5-year passports and Jordanian nationality. This means that family relations will not be different and will not undergo any change. Ties of fatherhood and marriage will not terminate. These conditions existed and prevailed and are still the same. A person who cannot go to the West Bank without a permit will remain in the same situation until he obtains a family reunion card and joins his family.

Question: Will you allow members of families in the West Bank to come to Jordan, join their families, and obtain Jordanian nationality?

Answer: I say no. We are eager to encourage the largest possible number of citizens to stand steadfast there. Even if in the same family we have only one person who has the right to reside on the West Bank, I will plead with him: Please conserve your right to return to the West Bank and I will continue to register you as a West Bank resident. Of course, this has been the case before.

Question: Is there anything new in this regard in light of the measures?

Answer: No, this is an old prevailing matter. It has been settled and has not changed. Now only the picture has changed: This person's passport is valid for 2 years and that person's for 5 years, and the difference is that this is a Palestinian and that is a Jordanian. You may ask why this split, and I say the reason was explained by his majesty the king in his speech and by the prime minister in his replies to the questions senior officials asked about this subject. I was previously asked about these subjects. This decision has a clear political framework. The national Palestinian identity on Palestinian territory should be projected. This is a settled and undebatable question, over which nobody disagrees. How can the national Palestinian identity be projected on the Palestinian territory?

The practical translation of this comes through these measures. Some might think that they are harsh, unfair, retaliatory, or punitive. I say no, and stress that they are neither retaliatory nor punitive. We are a natural demographic and geographic extension of the West Bank, and they are an extension of us. We are one nation and one people. We do not allow anyone to bargain over us. It is true that there are voices calling for regionalism, independence, separation, and isolation against a background of rancor and erroneous concepts, but the large pot contains the small one. We are the large pot. We contain all and do not get down to these trivialities, in which all sorts of things are said. We say that our kinfolk in the occupied homeland are from us and we are from them. We are one people regardless of what is said. His Majesty King Husayn stressed this and was careful to highlight it so that all will know it and so that all people who try to speak ill of us or misinterpret what his majesty

the king says or misinterpret the bases of the Jordanian policy will also know it. Our relationship with the Palestine question is a basic issue, and we do not allow anyone to bargain over us in this regard. We say that there is a distinctive relationship between Palestine and Jordan and between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. The distinctive relationship is embodied in what Jordan says and translates practically. The privileges the Palestinian people enjoy are more important than all slogans. How do I deal with the Palestinians on the West Bank? I deal with them as brothers, sons, kinfolk, and tribe. I do not deal with them as strangers. They are our kinfolk and brothers, and are dealt with accordingly. The fact that one holds a temporary 2-year passport is dictated by political considerations and supreme pan-Arab interests. The aim, as I have said, is to project the national Palestinian identity. I do not want the time to come when Sharon, Shamir, Arens, and Peres say: We do not have anything called a Palestinian people. This is a Jordanian people or a Jordanian community in the West Bank, and this community is residing on the land of Israel. We want to remove this concept, which Israel has throughout the past years tried to highlight. On the basis of this concept, it created the idea of the Jordanian option, which has never been part of Jordan's political calculations. We kept saying there is absolutely no Jordanian option, only a Palestinian option.

Question: In the past there was coordination between Jordan and the PLO through the 11 February 1985 agreement, which meant that the PLO would join Jordan in any peaceful settlement through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Answer: I would like to say that this subject does not go beyond the concept I have stressed. There was a Palestinian option supported by a clear, official Jordanian stand. However, negotiations should be with the Palestinians. The 1985 agrement between us and the PLO was an attempt to find an internationally accepted formula that we can support and push forward so that the PLO can participate in the international conference on an equal footing with others. They used to say none is acceptable except Jordan. We said: All right, we will go if that helps the PLO. Actually, their trend was for us to go with them to the international conference, and we had no other aim but to help them participate in the conference. The PLO's problem is that they have a complex that Jordan is competing with them. There is a cake they want to eat. They say: If we go with Jordan, the latter will eat a piece of this cake. Therefore, there is a sensitivity. O brothers, the issue is not that I want to eat a cake; I do not want to eat cakes. His majesty the king used to assure Yasir 'Arafat personally, telling him: Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the question is not that of competition between us. Jordan is not competing with the PLO over the West Bank, and we have no designs on or interests in the West Bank. It is in our interests that the Palestinian Arab people return [to their land], and that the Palestinian land be returned to the Arab nation and Arab order. When this happens, we will congratulate you. Yasir 'Arafat had a complex that this talk was untrue and that we wanted to cheat him and go to the international conference. Is it possible that Jordan, going to the international conference with such international legitimacy, should come away empty-handed? Naturally, for us, this was out of the question, and there are many clear Jordanian approaches, one of which is the United Arab Kingdom plan.

Jordan's declared positions and its planning for future developments and future relations with the PLO and the Palestinians revolved around the belief that there will be a Palestinian state with its own identity and that chooses whatever it desires. We will not impose anything on it. They feared that things will be done at their expense, and that it will, in the future, harm their dreams and aspirations for the creation of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory under the leadership of the PLO. For us, this, of course, was out of the question. We did not, and will not, compete, and we do not want anything to harm the PLO or its aspirations.

Question: Was the main reason behind the measures to remove this misunderstanding in the relationship?

Answer: The measures were taken to support the Palestinian people and highlight their national identity. They were also taken in this atmosphere to remove any friction, misunderstanding, or doubts. We are concerned with highlighting the Palestinian national identity on Palestinian soil so that matters do not become confused.

Now there are many people who come to me and say: Brother, I want to change my green card for a yellow one. Another says: I want to change my yellow card for a green one, because he does not want to do his military service. Another says to you that he does not want to stay on the West Bank. I say to them: No brother, you must stay on the West Bank, and do not be afraid because nothing will happen to you. He will tell you that the Arab states complicate things for those who hold temporary passports—and this actually happens. The Arab states that complicate things for citizens who hold temporary Jordanian passports must be reminded of their responsibilities. They must be reminded of their responsibilities toward the Palestinian people. All Arab states wanted decisions to translate their inclinations into measures. Actually, the Jordanian decision came in response to, and harmony with, these Arab requests and the PLO request. Now, it is painful that certain Arab countries annoy the Palestinian people and deal with them as if they were people from another planet, because they hold a 2-year Jordanian temporary passport. Therefore, they must be reminded of their responsibilities. How can some Arabs states—which deduct a certain ratio from the salaries and incomes of individuals who work in the Gulf states to be given to he PLO, and which deal with those people on the premise that they are Palestinian citizens who are subjects of the PLO and must pay this tax to the PLO—deal with them as if they were people with a question mark?

This is unacceptable. We in Jordan, when we deal with our kinfolk, deal with them as brothers and citizens with full freedom and legitimate rights according to Jordanian law. Then they blame us for these measures, which aim to highlight the Palestinian identity. I distinguish the Palestinian people, so that legal matters are not confused and no citizen is harmed.

We are concerned. My office is always open to any person who encounters difficulty anywhere or if things get complicated for any reason, like interpreting a resolution or an instruction. I say to these people: Come and tell me so that we can treat things, because always at the beginning when new instructions are issued, people may be confused by things that are unclear. There might be certain small things that people may not understand. Things need time before they can settle. So come and tell me, so that I can find out if we made an error in any measure so that we can review it. We are not perfect, and we can make mistakes. We did what we believed to be the appropriate thing. You might find there is an error in what we have done. Then come and tell us, so that we can look into it and explore the possibility of amending and reproducing it in a rational manner that will not harm people.

Question: In light of what you have said, there are questions about the issue of employees. There is belief that this is the only issue in which a sector of the people was harmed.

Answer: Regarding government employees, I do not know the exact number, but we kept all classified employees appointed after 1967 in their positions. Some of their colleagues here were pensioned off 5 or 10 years ago. From 1967 until now, there have been 21 years, and there are 21 years before that. [sentence as published] Some of them have been employed for over 20 years. Some have been employed for 10, 15, 16, 5, 6, 3, and 4 years. All for 25 years or more. [sentence as published] Those of the shortest service period were the ones appointed on the day of occupation. They have been employees for 21 years. This means that they are now entitled to retirement. They received their salaries and promotions on time. Also, their pension is equal to four-fifths of their salaries. This means that the family affairs of these employees are stable. Their children have grown up and been educated. Hence, their monthly spendings have dropped. They do not have young children that need education. Those who were receiving a second salary are the ones that were appointed after 1967 by the occupation authorities to enhance existing institutions. Usually these were in the hospitals and schools. There was a shortage as the number of students increased. There was a shortage of teachers, physicians, nurses, and technicians. The occupation authorities appointed people in these institutions. They, of course, received salaries from the occuapation authorities, and we gave them additional salaries of 50-70 Jordanian dinars monthly, as a financial help because they worked in institutions that were Jordanian and because their colleagues in those institutions were classified government employees. We have obligations toward classified employees as long as the employee and the institution exist. Anyone who served the country for a number of years will have his pension rights secured and unchanged. We cannot deny the rights of a group of people who served the state for a long time; we cannot tell them that we have stopped their pensions. Their pension rights are safeguarded, and we continue paying them their pensions. What I am saying now is: Al-Qadhdhafi comes and says: I want to pay the salaries of employees sacked by Jordan, and the PLO comes and says: I want to pay the salaries. Good, pay salaries, but I deal with a reality whose dimensions you do not understand. You do not understand that we were dealing with the reality of occupation, with existing de facto institutions that have no legal status. They have the status of providing continuous services for citizens there. The issue is not that of "promotion" but of rectifying a legal status in light of a decision. When you come and boast that you will pay their salaries, you mean that you will replace Jordan, which abandoned them. I can say that this is naive talk that shows lack of knowledge of the reality of things. I say and challenge that no one in the Arab world knows this and the nature of affairs in the occupied territories as Jordan does. There have been 40 years of merger in this homeland in this part of the Arab world. Nobody except us knows this. No one can one-up us and say: We know more about the West Bank than you do. This is not logical. You come and say that you want to pay them. I pay people pensions. What do you want to pay them, basic salaries or the difference between the pension money and the salaries that they used to receive before they were pensioned off? O Yasir 'Arafat or Al-Qadhdhafi, you want to pay the salaries that we used to pay as an assistance to the employees that receive their salaries from Israel; that is, you want a share of power with Israel. But were we not accused of sharing power with Israel? Helping these people is considered by the PLO as power sharing. I want to know what they will call the new reality, when Israel and the PLO pay salaries and assistance. Will they call it sharing power with Israel or assistance? Here, things will become clear, and we will see what will happen to the names and headlines that were given as part of the campaign against Jordan—power sharing, relations of annexation, relations of subordination. This logic is not acceptable.

In our Arab world, the words annexation, subordination, and power sharing cannot be accepted from people with a sense of pan-Arabism. Do we speak of an annexation relationship under the shadow of occupation when the land and people are under occupation? What kind of theorizing is this? Is this patriotism and revolutionism? Does being under the shadow of the Arab order make you say that you are annexed and subordinate while being sunk under the occupation makes you say you are free from the Jordanian Arab subordination and enjoy freedom under occupation? Are these the revolutionary

concepts? I do not know whether it is true to consider myself free under occupation after emancipation from Jordanian annexation and subordination.

This is the worst thing that one can hear at this bad time—that people view the most dangerous world issue; namely, the Arab-Israeli conflict, this way. Let us understand the pronouncement that we obtained our freedom from annexation and subordination. A statement to this effect was issued by the PFLP and the DFLP.

Question: What about the bridges?

Answer: Nothing has changed about the bridges. The only change is related to the green card, which is given to visitors. The period given visitors is now 1 month instead of 3 months. The period for other cases remains unchanged: 1 year for those pursuing their education or jobs. The period for medical treatment is decided according to the treating quarter's report. Another subject I would like to talk about is the property and money of the West Bank people here. Some foreign reporters have asked me about this subject. I was surprised that some foreign reporters asked when we will build the Great Wall of China between us and the West Bank and what will happen to the Palestinian properties in the East Bank and whether there is an intention to confiscate them.

Question: There is a question on the property of the occupied territory's people in Jordan.

Answer: There is no doubt that this is a spiteful question. I asked them: Where did you get this inforamtion, and what made you ask such questions? Have you seen any signs indicating this? They said: We heard this from some people who said they were afraid about their property. Regarding money, we stress that there are absolutely no plans or intentions to harm the Palestinians' properties in the East Bank. These Palestinians, just like Jordanian citizens, are totally free without any complications or restrictions to deal with their movable and immovable property the way they wish. There are no new instructions or legislation in this regard, and things will remain as they are. Therefore, I say that this, too, is an indication of the distinguished relationship. Nobody will harm their property or money. Why should we? These are mere fears by spiteful people who spread rumors to undermine the state, shake the Jordanian economy, and harm the Palestinian people themselves. This is absolutely out of the question.

Regarding the building of the great wall of China between us and the West Bank, the subject is too silly to deserve a reply. We adopted the policy of open bridges with the West Bank to maintain contact with people and alleviate the sufferings of the people in the occupied territories. I am not building the Great Wall of China between me and them, but opening bridges. I care for them even after the recent decisions and instructions. I will remain the lung through which they breathe. Now that the decision has been issued and they have become Palestinians on the Palestinian land, shall I cut off the artery and say: Breathe by yourselves and not through me? I care that they continue to breathe through me.

Question: People are wondering about the status of the camps and UNRWA's services. Anything new on that?

Answer: It was the PLO and its constituent factions that first brought up the subject when we said that the people of the East Bank are Jordanians. They said this was unacceptable as the term would cover persons who are supposed to have the right of repatriation to their country. We maintain that this is not the right time to discuss this matter. To my knowledge UNRWA's services will remain, since it is serving people who were forced out of their country. It makes no difference whether they are Jordanians or not. We have approached the Palestinian question differently from other countries. As for the Palestinians who were displaced in 1948, they became Jordanian citizens whether in the West Bank or in the East Bank. This is an established fact now and has not changed in the eyes of the international community and UNRWA. The fact that a Jordanian citizen resident in a camp receives set rations does not change anything. As for the people living here and those in the West Bank there is a category residing in camps and their names are listed in UNRWA's records and they receive assistance from it. On the other hand, there is a category of refugees in the West Bank that receive no UNRWA rations because they are living on their land. Likewise, here in the East Bank some refugees receive UNRWA assistance, others do not. There is no change whatsoever to the status of the camps. These population centers enjoy the benefit of both government and UNRWA services. This state of affairs will persist.

Question: Will there be parliamentary elections? And will there be any change or amendment to the election law?

Answer: This is a sensitive subject with constitutional dimensions. His majesty the king is entitled to postpone the elections and thus give us the time to study the 1986 election law No 22 in light of our experience with the electoral rolls last year. As you must know, the electorate were registered according to constituencies or seats. The criteria applied was domicile or birthplace. For instance a person whose birthplace is Al-Karak must register in the electoral roles of that city. If you are a resident of Al-Karak but were not born there, you have the choice of registering in the city or in your home town.

The second subject is the constituencies and the seats allotted to them. These will change. This, however, is a matter for the government, and not for the Interior Ministry. It is a political decision. On fixing an election date, the minister said: When we amend the electoral law, it is not to put it on the shelf. Ours being a

monarchist system, this is a key state institution. His majesty the king is concerned about it just as we are. You know we are going through not so normal circumstance in the region. Things must be readjusted to suit the recent measures. In the meantime, we must prepare ourselves for the coming stage and sort out our affairs internally, meaning in "the East Bank", to reflect these measures. All relevant laws are supposed to be amended.

Cairo Paper Interviews President on Elections

JN1309125588 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Sep 88 pp 3, 15

[Interview With President Amin al-Jumayyil by Salah al-Din Hafiz in Beirut, date not given]

[Text] [Hafiz] Your Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil, while we are approaching the end of your presidential term in a few days, our first question is simply: Where is Lebanon heading in light of its current crises?

[Al-Jumayyil] Before beginning this dialogue, I would like to extend the greetings of the son of the family to his family in AL-AHRAM. We are proud of the role Antoine al-Jumayyil played in its establishment, this first Arab newspaper. We feel that we are members of the family. Therefore, we must greet AL-AHRAM's sons and wish them and their establishment best wishes to continue to play a leading role in support of the major Arab cause and all Arab issues. We look forward to the day when Egypt will restore its leading role in the Arab world after it had left a vacuum in the arena. I am certain that dear brother President Husni Mubarak will succeed in unifying Arab ranks, and that Egypt, under his leadership and during his era, will lead the march of liberating Arab land and man. This is a major task because the liberation of man is a basic prelude to the liberation of land. The Arab man is now in dire need to be liberated from a certain mentality which caused the Arabs to pay a dear price. This is how I feel during the first contact and dialogue with AL-AHRAM, the newspaper and the establishment, which is the establishment of all Arabs—not only the Egyptians. We are proud of the role it has played for more than a quarter of a century. We also thank you for participating in the celebration of unveiling the statue of Dawud Barakat, former editor in chief of AL-AHRAM, in his Lebanese village of Yahshush. This is further proof of the warm relations between Lebanon and Egypt, and between AL-AHRAM and the Lebanese team that worked with it for years.

I also cannot conceal my feelings toward hospitable Egypt. We have roots in Egypt. You cannot imagine how impressed I was when I visited Egypt with my father years ago, and when I visited Al-Mansurah where my family used to live and I also visited the family's old house and I had strong emotions that made me feel the connection among the Lebanese and Egyptians.

[Hafiz] Mr president, once again, where is Lebanon heading? The date for electing a new president is getting closer. How do you view the next stage while you prepare to hand over responsibility and while the crisis is further exacerbated?

[Al-Jumayyil] We are doing our utmost to conduct elections within the constitutional period which will end on 23 September. Because we know that there are several difficulties, we call on all Arab brothers and peace-loving peoples to help Lebanon overcome this stage and achieve the Lebanese people's aspirations. Pushing Lebanon into the unknown will have serious consequences for all Arabs. Of course, Lebanon and all the Arabs will pay the price. Lebanon is an Arab country and it is being threatened. The fall of legitimacy means the fall of sovereignty. This will push all those who have ambitions in Lebanon, beginning with Israel, to occupy new Arab territories. No longer can any one defend Lebanon right now, and therefore the Arabs will lose this land for a long time. While we are searching for Palestinian rights we will add a new issue—the Lebanese issue. This is in addition to spreading confusion and the tyranny of the fait accompli forces on Lebanese territory, which will also further complicate the situation. This fragmentation would mark the beginning of new troubles whose price would be paid by other Arab regimes.

[Hafiz] Your excellency, who is responsible for all this?

[Al-Jumayyil] The responsibility is a comprehensive Arab one. We hope that Egypt, which has always played a leading role in raising the banner of peace in the Arab world, will help reach a solution and will play a leading role in helping Lebanon overcome its ordeal.

[Hafiz] We believe that the factor of time plays a basic role now because the crisis is approaching 23 September and the various Lebanese parties still disagree over the new president's election. What is your opinion and what are your plans for the coming days?

[Al-Jumayyil] The problem is that Lebanon has become the captive of a status quo imposed on it from outside. Lebanon is like a hijacked plane. All the passengers are under the threat of the hijackers. Everyone knows that the Lebanese are a good, harmonious people who wish to coexist in peace. Of course, they have their personal problems and there are varied opinions among the many groupings. But Lebanon always tried and succeeded in dealing with its internal problems with democracy and dialogue.

But now, unfortunately, the Lebanese will is stripped and the Western pressures coming from beyond the borders are direct pressures which were mostly translated into explosions of the security situation and assassinations. This has made the Lebanese people fear interference in our internal affairs. There are numerous armies in the Lebanese arena. Southern Lebanon is occupied by the Israeli army which has spread into other areas. There is also the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards which is a regular army of Iran. It controls other areas. There is the Libyan army present in some parts of Lebanon. There also are various Palestinian factions that are not working for the Palestinian cause. They fight their battles on our land like regular armies receiving their instructions from abroad and not working for the basic cause. This is the fighting of regimes and mercenaries.

Then there is the Syrian Army which entered Lebanon in 1975 to help the Lebanese re-unify their ranks. The result of that however, was even more divisions and further crumbling of the situation in Lebanon ever since the Syrian Army entered. We seek to have the best relations with Syria of course but unfortunately, the situation is worsening.

All this armed presence and these official armies in the Lebanese arena do not facilitate dialogue. They actually strip the Lebanese of their will. Some advise that the Lebanese should meet and they preach the necessity of unifying our ranks.

How do you expect the son of the south occupied by Israel to extend his hand to the rest of the areas which are themselves under other pressures? How will the Lebanese citizen be allowed to hold discussions with the rest of the citizens in freedom, ease, and from the point of view of the Lebanese interest?

In Egypt, you experienced the stage of British occupation. We experienced the French occupation and Afghanistan is experiencing the Soviet occupation. Europe also experienced the Nazi occupation. Through this we learned that the methods of occupation are the same everywhere. There are some groups that block from the one side, and from the other side there is dependence on local tools to implement foreign policy. Therefore, we hope that the preachers will follow a line of more seriousness and effectiveness and extend the hand of direct help to the Lebanese people. Along with the advice and preachings, Lebanon is in greater need to liberate its will so that the country will be liberated. If Lebanon is preached to while the country is stripped of its will, then it cannot follow the advice given to it.

[Hafiz] Your Excellency the President, you are now the legitimate and elected president of this country on the verge of handing over responsibility to another president. Do you believe that the solution to the current political complications lies in one of the three possibilities: forming a provisional government, electing a new president, or extending the present presidency. Which of these possibilities represents the solution and way out?

[Al-Jumayyil] First of all, I was elected by a majority. Second, we believe that electing a new president is the best method. It should also be concluded during the constitutionl period because it is the solution. We should not be distracted by other issues.

The friends of Lebanon—headed by President Husni Mubarak and the Arab brothers who care for Lebanon's interests—have to work toward holding the presidential elections on time because any other solution is an amputated solution that will neither grow, nor develop.

[Hafiz] I do not know whether or not the many international changes are in the interest of Lebanon. These international changes aim at pacifying hotbeds of tension, such as the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war, the beginning of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the negotiations between Namibia and South Africa. This is a sign of world detente. Where does the Lebanese crisis stand in this atmosphere?

[Al-Jumayyil] The Lebanese people are frustrated because the march to resolve regional and local disputes peacefully and through international endeavor has placed the Lebanese issues at the bottom of priorities. Lebanon has reached the brink of the abyss and cannot wait any longer. Perhaps when the time comes to tackle Lebanon's problems, its entity would be lost. The Lebanese issue is different from other issues because the Lebanese structure is so delicate that any deterioration will make it impossible to reorganize it in the future. The balance in Lebanon and the Lebanese system itself is very fragile and can be damaged, affected, and fragmented easily. It will be very difficult in the future to rebuild Lebanon, the country of freedom, democracy, and openness.

Therefore, we fear that when the time comes to tackle the Lebanese issue, the matter would have ended and it would be impossible. Anyway, we hope the Lebanese crisis will be tackled swiftly before it is too late.

[Hafiz] Do you believe, in light of your contacts, that the United States places the Lebanese problem at the top of its priorities, particularly since many Lebanese are wagering on the American role in solving the crisis?

[Al-Jumayyil] As you have said, there is intensive external interest in some regional problems. However, there are weak points at this stage such as U.S. preoccupation with the elections and the preoccupation of some Arab regimes with urgent issues. This makes concern over the Lebanese situation not as it should be. This delicate stage requires direct and intensive concern at the highest levels in light of the extraordinary and difficult pressures practiced on Lebanon. Therefore, the situation requires high-level tackling.

[Hafiz] However, I noticed through my dialogue with many Lebanese parties that everybody is talking about a U.S.-Syrian dialogue to resolve the Lebanese crisis. Can the United States do anything to this effect according to your previous analysis?

[Al-Jumayyil] We hope so, because Syria wants to involve other countries in the Lebanese issues and seems to adhere to the American move in Lebanon. It accepted the U.S. mediation among the Lebanese parties and between Syria and Lebanon for months. There were also U.S. shuttle moves between Washington, Damascus, and Ba'bda—headquarters of the Lebanese rule.

It seems that the contacts are continuing. We hope that these contacts will succeed because there are approximately 40,000 Syrian soldiers on our territory. This matter should be taken into consideration when tackling the Lebanese problem. Also, all the Lebanese factions want to maintain the best relations with Syria because it is the closest neighbor and the Lebanese gateway to all Arab countries. We want to establish the best relations with Syria. It is not in the interest of Lebanon to dispute with Syria. By the same token, it is not in the interest of Syria to dispute with Lebanon. We want to normalize Lebanese-Syrian relations. This is also what the United States seeks.

So far, things are the same and contacts are continuing. We are exerting our utmost to achieve peace in Lebanon. We should not rely on the United States only. Egypt has a role to play, Saudi Arabia also has a role, and many Arab and Western countries as well as the USSR have roles. The loss of Lebanon will not benefit the Arab countries, the United States, or the USSR.

[Hafiz] We hope that Lebanon will first become cohesive before...

[Al-Jumayyil, interrupting] I tell you that Lebanon is cohesive. I insist and stress that it is cohesive. Lebanon is prevented by outside forces from showing internal cohesion within the framework of the Lebanese issue and the Lebanese interest. It is allowed to be cohesive only when this cohesion falls within the framework of a strategy beyond the Lebanese border. We want to be cohesive and work for a peace strategy. We do not want to be cohesive under the shadow of an axial strategy. This is the challenge we face today. Lebanese cohesion is a demand by all the Lebanese people. I have evidence of this in light of my meetings with all leaders from various trends. Even those leaders who explicitly criticize me, stress the unity and coexistence of Lebanon.

[Hafiz] But, Mr President, some of these parties are demanding political reform that restores the balance of Lebanon's coexistence and cohesion.

[Al-Jumayyil] We stand for developing the system. The system must be developed. This, however, does not mean exploding the very basis of the system and undermining the umbrella under which all the Lebanese categories sit. We insist that the system should be developed with this concept in mind. The system itself determines the way of development and modification. I stress that all the Lebanese people proved their unity under all circumstances. For instance, when former Prime Minister Rashid Karami was martyred, the people felt the danger and all categories gathered around the presidency. Through consultations, we found the solution that prevents Lebanon from falling in the trap of a vacuum. When Lebanon feels danger, it shows unity away from selfish interests and emotionalism.

But unfortunately, and I say this very painfully, the will of the Lebanese people is obstructed and stolen. The Lebanese people are forced to adopt stands in which they do not believe. Pressure is so strong that it has become unbearable. The long war also diminished the possibility of prevention and the people's ability to resist. The stage of weariness that was imposed on the Lebanese people first by the Palestinian action and then by Iranian, Syrian, and Libyan interference pushed things far away, weakening self prevention.

[Hafiz] What is the solution, Mr President?

[Al-Jumayyil] The solution lies in the Arab nation looking at this young brother, Lebanon, and at this genuine Arab people with a caring eye, and extending help to them before it is too late, and before another complicated issue is added to the Palestinian question.

With all objectivity I say that the responsibility now is Arab, before being Lebanese. Perhaps it was a Lebanese responsibility before, but now it is an Arab responsibility. When tens of thousands of soldiers of various nationalities exist in Lebanon, the responsibility becomes Arab. Perhaps the Lebanese people made mistakes and perpetrated horrible crimes against Lebanon, its interests, and its sovereignty. Perhaps we lost our way and wronged ourselves, but when the young brother makes mistakes, the solution is not to kill him, but to help and save him.

[Hafiz] Do you agree with growing fears that there is a foreign plan to divide Lebanon?

[Al-Jumayyil] This is a dangerous and painful remark. I always bet that the Lebanese, the regional, and the international interests are against this.

[Hafiz] But there are attempts to create tension and push Lebanon toward partition as an introduction to disintegrating the region, as recently appeared in many published studies.

[Al-Jumayyil] Perhaps the Lebanese people have many shortcomings. But I can emphasize that there is a trend that cannot be absorbed. There is internal conviction and impetus that pushes toward unification and unity of view, fate, and movement. This deep Lebanese feeling is what enabled us to overcome the hardest of circumstances. There is a self-preservation that has not yet diminished. When it comes to Lebanese disintegration, this self-preservation rises up. [Hafiz] While sympathizing with this Lebanese feeling toward unity and sovereignty, do you believe that Lebanon, during this very sensitive period, can get rid of the foreign armies on its land easily and the numerous local armies—militias—inside the country?

[Al-Jumayyil] There is no solution to the Lebanese issue and no peace in Lebanon unless the legitimate Lebanese powers regain their full responsibilities. The logic of

militias started when brother Abu 'Ammar, Yasir 'Arafat, tried to turn Lebanon into a Hanoi through which he could find a way into the Palestine liberation war. Lebanon is the weaker ring in the Arab world. That is why it cannot protect itself from 'Arafat's ambitions who said that the road to Palestine passes through southern Lebanon.

This behavior by 'Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] led to a reaction. Unfortunately, the Arabs pushed the Palestinians into Lebanon and provided them with weapons, money, and support to keep them away from the other Arab countries so that they would be squeezed in Lebanon. The reaction came from many parties in Lebanon out of self- defense. Palestinian media succeeded greatly in portraying the Palestinian-Lebanese war as a civil war between the Lebanese groups. It also used some of the Lebanese leaderships as a front.

The presence of the PLO pushed many Lebanese groups to remain steadfast so that it would not turn Lebanon into what the foreign press called 'Fatah Land'. The Arab head-in-sand policy and the policy of hiding from reality which are very sly policies, managed to set up the Palestinian forces in Lebanon since it is the weakest ring. Many negative things arose from that, such as the Palestinian resistance's belief that Lebanon is the substitute state blessed by the Arabs.

[Hafiz] Your Excellency the President, you are doing the Palestinian resistance an injustice by holding it responsible...

[Al-Jumayyil] Never. This is how the Lebanese militias started, whether the Lebanese Forces or Amal. They started by defending themselves. Then things developed when the Iranian Army came into the picture, as well as the Libyan, Israeli, and then the Syrian entry where things exploded. This turned the situation into an abnormal one which led to the intermixing of the militias and armies in a very dangerous way. At one stage, we had more than 15 international regular armies such as the international forces in the south which consist of seven armies and the multi-national forces which came in to ensure the exit of the Palestinian resistance and protect the camps. Then the Syrian army came in, the Libyan, and numerous Palestinian factions. The solution lies in the exit of all these forces from Lebanon and the logic of militias, which started when a certain situation was created after the Lebanese institutions collapsed, ends.

Being a logical man, I know perfectly well that Lebanon is not capable of solving its problems with a magic wand. This is not available to anyone anyway. The cure lies in an Arab and international understanding of the danger of what is happening in the Lebanese arena. It is possible to reach an understanding with President Hafiz al-Asad on the solutions in the form of help to confront the Israeli occupation. These are solutions that can take place only under the international umbrella, the support of the United States, and Arab understanding, despite the fact that some might consider that this will form intervention in Lebanese affairs, whereas this is not intervention at all. The first step lies in reaching a Lebanese-Syrian understanding over the need to bring about a disengagement in the conflict between Syria and Lebanon. This can be achieved only through the Arab brothers who maintain good relations with Syria. This will facilitate dealing with the presence of Iran and the fundamentalists in Lebanon. It will also ease dealing with the Palestine question, as there is an atmosphere of confidence between the Lebanese Government and the PLO. We do not seek the enmity of the PLO. We do not want to look backward and hold the PLO responsible for the present situation in Lebanon. We want to help it so that Lebanon can become an intellectual and media platform for the Palestine question. The joint interests necessitate cooperation. Fortunately, my relations with Abu 'Ammar are good. We have to benefit from the atmosphere of confidence absent in the 1970's. This would help stabilize the situation. It would also help deal with the occupation of southern Lebanon and the Palestine question. Thus, we would be able to divest Israel of the pretexts that it has been advancing. We would also be able to face Israel united. We are ready to employ the army to shoulder the security responsibility in southern Lebanon. All this constitutes a draft plan for the restoration of peace which would be based on the launching of a Syrian-Lebanese dialogue and the reaching of a Palestinian-Lebanese understanding with Arab support and under international auspices.

[Hafiz] A question on the president remains. Now that President Amin al-Jumayyil is preparing to leave his presidential post after the hard years that have been spent while occupying that post, how do you feel? Do you have an easy conscience?

[Al-Jumayyil] The ambitions of Amin al-Jumayyil, the human being, were clear before he assumed the presidency. The principles of which I was convinced before I assumed the presidency are Lebanon's unity, its Arabism, adherence to its Arab and international role, developing the Lebanese system, and increasing the people's prosperity. After 6 years, I might have failed to achieve all of these ambitions, not because of personal considerations or reasons, but because regional and international interferences in the Lebanese arena have prevented me from realizing my ambitions.

With all objectivity, I say that I saved all these principles to the time when all the givens would be made available. I preserved the Lebanese institutions and the Lebanese system. So far, Lebanon's unity has remained a fact and a reality. There is one president and one prime minister and they are maintaining daily cooperation despite the problems. This is proof of the unity of the country despite the dangers, pressures, threats, and temptations for consecrating the de facto partitioning.

I do not want to brag about this, but this is a miracle, considering the interventions and the challenges. Lebanon's Arabism has remained entrenched. At no other

time has Lebanon been more open to the Arabs as it is right now. The Lebanese president, the country's symbol, maintains ties of friendship with all Arab heads of state, even with the heads of state of the countries with which we have problems. We maintained Lebanon within the genuine Arab ranks.

On developing the system, we proposed more than one plan for developing and amending the constitution to help realize the ambitions of all Lebanese parties. The Lebanese parties approved our ideas. However, the regional circumstances have not allowed us to crystallize these plans into a final nationalist plan. Regarding the people's prosperity and development, I say that the accomplishments in the fields of development and in developing facilities and schools, and also in upgrading the health, cultural, higher education, and administrative apparata were more than those scored in the past three presidential eras.

As for the foreign policy, we have broken the ring, thereby allowing Lebanon to open to all states. Having no complexes at all, we visited Egypt and most Arab and western and eastern European states despite the pressures and threats, as Lebanon's fate has been at stake. These are my accomplishments, an open book to be deposited in the annals of history.

[Hafiz] Your Excellency the President, thank you for this dialogue. We pray to God to spare Lebanon the evils of sedition and protect it from the danger of partitioning

Former Official Urges Franjiyah To Quit Race

NC1309174088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Kamil al-As'ad, former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has called on former President Sulayman Franjiyah to make the sort of decision which is compatible with his patriotic political stands and long history; namely, not to insist on remaining in the presidential race. Al-As'ad called on Franjiyah not to push Lebanon toward a precipice of self-annihlation. Al-As'ad said that Franjiyah's insistence on remaining in the presidential race while his path is blocked could spell danger for the country.

Al-As'ad said that he believes that Syria would not insist on Franjiyah's nomination if the latter decided to quit the race, because Syria is committed to the unity of Lebanon and the Lebanese, is faithful to the pan-Arab cause, and wants to achieve strategic balance with Israel.

Army Cancels Security Measures in East Beirut

NC1309140288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Guidance Department of the Army Command has issued a communique announcing that it has cancelled the security measures which certain Lebanese Army units had taken following the kidnapping of Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran. The communique says that these measures were cancelled following the release of the minister.

Sources close to the Lebanese Forces stated that this morning, while Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran was going to the Ministry of Defense, he was intercepted by demonstrators who are friends of Deputy Farid Sarhal. The demonstrators detained the defense minister to bring about the release of Deputy Sarhal.

In the meantime, contacts were held by some deputies with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja', who was in Bkirki [seat of Maronite Patriarchate]. The deputies asked Dr Ja'ja' to intervene and do his best to find out the location of Minister 'Usayran and work for his release.

Dr Ja'ja' immediately gave instructions to the Lebanese Forces' security organs to act quickly and secure the release of 'Usayran. After investigations, the security organs located the place where the defense minister was being held and brought about his release.

A meeting was then held between Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja', and Deputies Butrus Harb and Michel Sasin.

Defense Minister 'Usayran was escorted to the museum Mansur Palace area by Deputies Michel Sasin and Butrus Harb. A number of shells fell as the motorcade was passing near the Olivetti building, while clashes were taking place on the museum line.

'Usayran Claims Kidnappers From Lebanese Forces

NC1309154388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Upon his arrival at the American University Graduates' Club in West Beirut, Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran said he had met for 10 minutes with Dr Samir Ja'Ja'. He added that he had been well treated by his kidnappers, whom he said are people from Jazzin in the Lebanese Forces.

Forces Denounce Kidnapping

NC1309153688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council has denounced the regrettable act to which Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran was subjected, describing it as a childish attempt against a personality respected by all Lebanese factions. The Command Council categorically rejected any attempt to spread the disease of political kidnapping, practiced by the Syrian occupation forces and their Lebanese tools, to the free areas. The Command Council appealed to influential figures in West Beirut to make the necessary contacts to bring about the release of Deputy Farid Sarhal.

The Council reviewed the general political situation and the developments surrounding the election. It voiced concern over decisions declared by Speaker al-Husayni and expressed astonishment at the transfer of the venue of the legislative power from a safe and accessible location to an unsafe one.

The Command Council expressed hope that the new U.S. activity will remove obstacles in the way of the election.

The Command Council chairman reviewed the security situation on the Salome Traffic Circle. He indicated that the incident that occurred in the Salome area was unplanned and a result of bad judgment. He informed the Command Council that he had issued immediate orders to the Lebanese Forces not to harass any Lebanese Army personnel or their vehicles.

Crossing Points Between East, West Beirut Reopen

NC1309145988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The crossing points [between East and West Beirut] were reopened a short while ago. They had been closed earlier in the afternoon because of the fighting that broke out at 1430 and lasted until 1600 along the Primo-Museum-Ra's al-Nab' combat lines. All types of machineguns, rockets, and mortars were used in the clashes. A number of shells fell on the outskirts of the Al-Ashrafiyah area during the fighting.

In another development, intensive contacts have led to the withdrawal of gunmen from the East Beirut areas of Sinn al-Fil, Salome, and Al-Jisr al-Wati. A security dispute in the area developed into shooting involving machineguns and RPG's between 1100 and 1400 today. We have learned that the situation is returning to normal in the area of Sinn al-Fil and also in the area of Badaru, where a clash had taken place between the Army and the Lebanese Forces.

Army, Lebanese Forces Clash in Salome Area

NC1309122988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] According to the latest reports from East Beirut, fighting is continuing between the Lebanese Army's military police and elements of the Lebanese Forces in the Salome area. Rocket fire is heard from time to time.

A clash took place in this area this morning. There was another clash in Al-'Abd Square in which one person was wounded, according to unofficial reports. According to the same reports, two army soldiers were killed in the Salome fighting.

The deployment of gunmen was reported in the Al-Ashrafiyah, Furn al-Shubbak, Sinn al-Fil, Badaru, and Al-'Adliyah areas.

Lebanese Forces 'Clarify' Incident

NC1309194388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] To clarify the Salome incident, the Lebanese Forces General Staff issued a statement in which it said that a Lebanese Forces military truck was passing at the Salome traffic circle this afternoon at the same time that a Lebanese Army mechanized patrol was in the same area. The Army patrol opened fire at the Lebanese Forces vehicle, killing Comrade Ahmad al-Haysi, wounding another, and setting the vehicle on fire. Some elements of the Lebanese Army also entered one of the Lebanese Forces' positions in the Museum area, but withdrew after a while. Following this incident, contacts were held among security and military officials, which brought the situation under control and then returned it to normal.

Army Closes Museum Crossing Point in Al-Barbir

NC1409112088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The Lebanese Army closed the Museum crossing shortly after 1400 today. Military vehicles still are permitted to cross, as are deputies, diplomats and travellers. It has been learned that this measure was taken because of the appearance of armed groups in the Al-Barbir area.

Resistance Fire Katyushas at Qiryat Shemona

NC1309115088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] In the resisting South, Israeli acts of aggression continue against the peoples of the areas under occupation. The towns of 'Ayn Biswar and Jba' came under 120-mm mortar fire at 0900 today from positions in Sujud. Haddatha came under sniper fire from Tallat Haddatha at 1000.

In retaliation for the Israeli actions, a Lebanese Resistance-Amal group fired 107-mm rockets at Qiryat Shemona settlement at 2200 last night. An Amal statement said that the rockets landed in the settlement, causing casualties in the ranks of the Zionist settlers.

A statement released by the resistance warned the Israeli occupation authorities against any acts of aggression against the villages of the South, saying that the reprisals inside the occupied territory and against the agent positions inside the occupied border strip will be violent.

Residential Areas Under Fire in East Beirut

NC1309111788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Residential areas in Primo and Sodeco came under attack from sniper fire and RPG's this afternoon. Shells are landing as far as the outskirts of Al-Ashrafiyah.

2 Lahd Militiamen Killed in Resistance Operation

NC1309133088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Islamic resistance has announced that this morning one of its groups detonated an explosive charge as an Agent Lahd militia patrol was passing on the Jabal al-Rayhan road. A statement by the Islamic resistance said that two members of the patrol were killed, and members of the resistance group returned safely to base.

South Lebanon Army's Lahd on Elections

NC1409061588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Our correspondent in southern Lebanon has cited Major General Antoin Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, as saying that the Syrians have lost their self-control and are working to push the Lebanese issue to the brink of the abyss. Lahd believes that Syria will have to reconsider many stands in the coming days, because otherwise elections will not be held.

Maj Gen Lahd asked what self-respecting state embarks upon an operation to detain a deputy? He said that this act is being covered up by Lebanese officials and leaders who have lost their courage and nationalist credibility under the threat of the Syrian sword aimed at their throats.

Lahd asserted that obstructing the elections will reflect negatively on both the Lebanese and Syrians, adding that the Syrians will sink deeper in the Lebanese quagmire and that they will be losers on both the regional and international levels.

Commenting on the effect of the elections on southern Lebanon, Lahd said that the situation in the South is a special matter which has its regional and Lebanese aspects. He pointed out that resolving the issue of the South depends on the discretion of the elected president, in the event that the elections are held.

Touching on the possibility of a Syrian military operation in the eastern area of Beirut, Lahd said that the eastern area is accustomed to political and military developments. He noted that military solutions have proved futile as far as solutions are concerned.

Nasirite, Islamic Groups Clash in Sidon

NC1309190588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Extreme tension prevails in Sidon, which has been the scene of clashes between the Nasirite Popular Organization and the Islamic group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] since 1800 today. Automatic weapons, rockets, and antitank weapons are being used in these clashes, which extended to outside Sidon. The clashes have reportedly left a number of casualties in their wake.

Further on Clashes

NC1409051588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Intensive efforts managed to contain the clashes which broke out in Sidon yesterday and left two people dead and nine others wounded. The competent security committees secured the withdrawal of the gunmen and returned the situation to normal.

In another development, the Amal Movement released 11 Palestinians yesterday. The movement issued a statement in this regard, reiterating its stand on the Palestinian issue and its insistence on holding continuing contacts with the Palestinians. The movement affirmed its determination to carry out the initiative of its leader, Minister Nabih Birri to close the camps war file forever. The movement pointed out that Palestinians manning a checkpoint near Sidon kidnapped a number of southern citizens yesterday.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC1409082188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut while flying reconnaissance sorties at 1035 today.

Israeli Vehicle Destroyed; Casualties Reported

NC1409110588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] An Amal group of the Lebanese Resistance Front detonated an explosive device while an Israeli M-113 armored personnel carrier [APC] was passing on the Markaba-Tallusah Road at midday. The APC was destroyed with blast and its crew was either killed or wounded. Shortly thereafter, Israeli troops raked the area with machineguns and artillery. The group managed to return safely to base.

Hostage Departs From Damascus With FRG Official

JN1309184088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Wolfgang Schaeuble, the federal minister of Chancellor Helmut Kohl; (Fudlar), director of the Middle East Department at the FRG Foreign Ministry [titles as heard]; and the FRG ambassador in Damascus, this afternoon.

The FRG minister conveyed the thanks and appreciation of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the FRG Government to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for their efforts to release Rudolf Cordes, the FRG hostage in Lebanon. Cordes also expressed deep gratitude for Syria's assistance in releasing him. Cordes and his wife also thanked President Hafiz al-Asad.

Wolfgang Schaeuble, the federal minister of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, accompanied by FRG Hostage Rudolf Cordes, left Damascus this evening. He was seen off by Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and the FRG ambassador. Schaeuble arrived in Damascus today to receive the hostage.

FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl thanked Syria today for its efforts during negotiations to release FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes. In a statement to the press distributed by his office in Bonn to today, Kohl announced that great efforts have been exerted to release FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes. He described the efforts as very difficult.

Richard Murphy Arrives in Damascus 13 Sep

JN1309182488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1745 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, arrived in Damascus at 1915 today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; the chief of the America desk and the assistant chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; the U.S. ambassador in Damascus; and the U.S. Embassy staff.

Official on Iraq's Use of Chemical Weapons

JN1309151888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, 13 Sep (SANA)—Ahmad 'Isa, Syria's permanent representative at the Arab League, has affirmed that the Iraqi regime is using internationally banned chemical weapons against the Iraqi opposition in Iraq as it used them in its unjust war with Iran.

In a statement last night at the end of the Arab League Council's meeting, he said that the Arab League Council should have decided to set up a fact-finding commission to see if the Iraqi regime is actually using these weapons. He added that as a result of such an investigation, the council could adopt a position toward Iraq. He also stressed that all of the international commissions which investigated the issue know that Iraq is using chemical weapons for mass annihilation.

Al-Shar' Addresses Lebanese, Palestinian Issues

JN1309161688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Damascus—In an interview with the French newspaper LE MONDE in Nicosia, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has affirmed that Syria gets its strength from its self-confidence under President Hafiz al-Asad's wise and courageous leadership and from the Syrian people's support for this leadership.

Asked about efforts to elect a new Lebanese president, Al-Shar' said that electing a new president in Lebanon is possible if the Americans correct their position on this issue. He asserted that President Sulayman Franjiyah is still determined to run the elections. The minister also stated that the Americans and their allies are responsible for hampering elections of a new Lebanese president. He said: On several occasions in recent months, the Americans affirmed to us that they are not against carrying out large-scale political reforms in Lebanon in order to achieve national reconciliation. They also stressed that they cannot ignore Syria's important and constructive role in helping Lebanon achieve that reconciliation. But suddenly they retreated from their previous position. We believe they miscalculated because Syria will continue its prominent role in helping Lebanon reach its goals even if the United States changes its views.

Answering another question on whether the change in the U.S. position depends on the new situation in the region that resulted from the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, the minister said: The Americans are mistaken if they think so. Syria's position is still the same and it will not change whether or not the Iraq-Iran war ends.

Regarding the dialogue between Syria and the United States, Al-Shar' said: It is continuing, but not on a high level. Regarding Syria's demand from the United States, the foreign minister said: A better understanding of the region's issues will not take place because of the unconditional U.S. support for Israel that occupies Arab territoiries, including the Golan. Syria also wants serious U.S. participation in efforts to reach a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the UN resolutions.

Asked about Lebanon, the minister said: Instead of pressuring elements hampering the election of a new Lebanese president, the United States encouraged these elements in conflict with Washington's assertions in recent months that Lebanon needs political reform to help reach national reconciliation.

Al-Shar' affirmed that the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss is the legitimate representative of Lebanon because it stemmed from the Lausanne meeting, is approved by the majority of the Lebanese, and the Christians and Muslims are equally represented in this government.

Answering a question on whether President al-Jumayyil will name a new government, the minister said: Any such government will be the production of a will that represents a limited side. Therefore, most of the Lebanese consider this a very serious step that might result in partitioning Lebanon. The situation will then be exposed to conflagration. Answering another question, the foreign minister expressed hope that the situation will not result in the resumption of fighting.

On the Palestinian issue and King Husayn's decision to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank, Faruq al-Shar' welcomed King Husayn's decision for the following two reasons: First, the decision shows the international community the necessity to meet the national rights of the Palestinian people and puts an end to the feeble excuses by which the Americans and Israeli used to deny these rights. Second, the decision aborts the grand Israeli scheme to turn Jordan into a Palestinian homeland as Shamir and Sharon want. Al-Shar' added that the king's decision has deprived the Israelis and some other parties of the pretext of turning Jordan into an alternative homeland.

Answering a question on Syria's position on the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government or a government-in-exile, the foreign minister said: This is a Palestinian affair. Syria, as a confrontation state that wants to regain the national rights of the Palestinian people, does not like any matter that increases fragmentation in the Palestinian ranks or produces negative repercussions from the uprising. Therefore, we believe that no efforts or initiatives should be taken if they harm national Palestinian unity or deepen divisions in the different Palestinian factions. Al-Shar' said that priority must be given to unite Palestinian ranks and reinforce Palestinian unity. All previous positions that harmed the PLO's unity should be reviewed. He added: We believe that the PLO leaders should establish Arab solidarity to reinforce and support the Arab position in confronting Israel. But, regrettably, they are now working within a different framework weakening their position on regaining their national rights.

He noted that the uprising emerged from the Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza. Even if the Israeli withdrawal is accomplished, those Palestinians would not regain their rights. Any just solution must take into consideration those people's right to return to their homeland. They did not embark on the uprising so that they will remain refugees wherever they are.

The interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was conducted by (Francoise Shengu), LE MONDE correspondent in Nicosia, during Al-Shar''s presence in Nicosia leading the Syrian delegation to the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference recently held in Cyprus.

Briefs Cabinet on Developments

JN1309172388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, the Council of Ministers listened to a political review from the foreign minister on developments in the region. The foreign minister explained the results of the meetings of the Libyan, Algerian, and Syrian foreign ministers, which were held in Algiers within the framework of coordination and unification of the positions of these countries.

The foreign minister also referred to the conference of the nonaligned foreign ministers held in Cyprus recently, as well as the conference's resolutions, which stress complete support for Syria's legitimate struggle, for the elimination of the U.S.-Israeli alliance, and for the need to impose economic and military sanctions on Israel if it continues to occupy Arab territories. The foreign minister also said that the conference praised the Lebanese national resistance and the Arab citizens' struggle and steadfastness in Golan and Palestine. He also explained the latest developments in the Lebanese arena. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR on Motives for Pakistan's Allegations

LD0809215888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's political commentator writes: Undoubtedly, it has not remained unnoticed that parallel with the intensification of armed interference by Pakistan, the psychological and propaganda campaign against the Republic of Afghanistan has considerably intensified. In this fraudulent market, our enemies try to sell any cheap stuff with thousands of tricks to the listeners of their programs. Of course, all this propaganda hullabaloo has definite aims. In addition to the other nonsense about our country that is being broadcast without the slightest sense of responsibility, what has attracted most attention in the last few days is the groundless accusation by the adventurist circles of the ruling authorities in Pakistan about a so-called air raid by the Afghan Armed Forces over villages and areas in Pakistan.

There could be various motives behind these accusations—such as the death of Ziaul Haq, the important domestic issues in Pakistan and the search for their resolution, and the need for a change to democracy which has been the focus of Pakistani public attention. Those who consider their remaining in power is conditioned by the preservation of the status quo are trying to divert public opinion from domestic to foreign issues. The exacerbation of tension in relations with Afghanistan by making false accusations could help this ill-fated cause. It should not be forgotten that previous rulers have constantly and repeatedly used this weapon.

Making a fuss about the existence of an imaginary foreign threat could not only be used as a pretext to prevent the planned transfer of power from the Armed Forces to the people's representatives, but it could also give Pakistan a powerful reason to request the continuation and intensification of the support and political, economic, and military aid from the United States and other patron countries.

Experience has shown that whenever the multimillion dollar U.S. economic-military aid to Pakistan is discussed in the U.S. Congress, Pakistan resorts to staging acts such as this in order to show that the imaginary foreign threat is real and the intensification of military aid is justifiable and necessary. The fact that the Pakistani Government revealed only yesterday that it is seeking modern radar to detect so-called aggressive aircraft proves this claim.

With every passing day more proof and documentation are coming to light about Pakistan's obvious and constant violations of the Geneva accords. At a time when Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are sincerely and [word indistinct] implementing their commitments, Pakistan finds itself in a difficult position from a political, legal, and moral viewpoint. In order to cover up its obvious violations, Pakistan resorts to action and shamelessly accuses Afghanistan of violating the Geneva accords. This is taking place precisely at a time when the situation surrounding Afghanistan and the results of the process of the Geneva talks are being assessed by the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference in Cyprus. Of course, Pakistan is resorting to accusations to reduce the moral pressure on itself for its violation of the Geneva accords and is trying to shift responsibility to the opposite side. It should be stressed that this too is one of the traditional methods of the previous authorities in Pakistan.

While one accepts the importance of each of these motives as the formulation of the strategy and propaganda tactics of Pakistan, another possibilty, which will certainly have very dangerous and worrying consequences, should not be ignored. It has often happened that before resorting to intensified hostile actions against the opposite side, aggressors and interfering persons accuse the other country of interference and aggression against their own country. Pakistan's history is full of such examples. At the present time, sinister and diabolical plans for Pakistan's direct participation in a war against Afghanistan are being fostered by some sick minds in Pakistan. The increasing cooperation of experts and military foreign advisers and the extensive participation of Pakistan's armed forces, especially its border militia forces, the transfer of arms and ammunition, and the organizing of attack plans for carrying out combat operations of the armed opposition extremists inside Afghanistan sound a serious warning bell.

Will the accusation about the Afghan air raid on Pakistani territory follow the aim of showing as justified and legitimate direct armed interference by Pakistan in the future? Hopefully, the answer to this question be negative, for no sound mind in Pakistan could or should be unaware of the serious and dangerous consequences for our region of violating the Geneva accords.

81st Memorandum Handed to UN Mission

LD1409084088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry Office for Liaison with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reported that the 81st Afghan memorandum on 13 cases of Pakistani violations of Document 1, Article 2, of the Geneva accords was handed today to the mission's office in Kabul. It requests that the violations be investigated in accordance with Paragraph 7 of Document 4 of the Geneva accords, and that the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative be informed of the findings.

More Mujahidin Success in Kabul, Other Areas

4-7 September Attacks

BK1309154388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have launched a fierce rocket attack on Kabul Airport

during the night of 4-5 September, destroying a Kabul regime aircraft, three helicopters, two jet planes, two armored carriers, and a building.

The mujahidin also intensified their operations in Paghman District and its surrounding areas and captured nine important security posts.

In separate operations near Jalalabad city in Nangarhar Province and in (Shiveh Uluswali) on 6-7 September, the mujahidin captured 30 Kabul regime soldiers, seized their arms and vehicles, and destroyed three of their posts.

The Kabul regime forces attacked the Taloqan Garrison to recapture it, but had to retreat after suffering heavy losses in men and material.

The mujahidin attacked a military convoy near Moqor town, about 100 km from Ghazni, inflicting heavy losses on Kabul regime troops. The convoy was on its way from Ghazni to Qandahar, but had to retreat after the attack.

Offensive in Samangan

BK1409084288 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have captured an Army garrison of the Kabul regime troops at Darrah-e Suf in Samangan Province. An agency report says, the mujahidin also captured a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition left by the fleeing troops.

The mujahidin also frustrated a military operation by the Kabul regime troops to retake the liberated valley of Nurestan in Konarha Province. After a day long resistance by the mujahidin, the invading army retreated carrying away a number of dead bodies and injured people. The mujahidin also captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Bangladesh

Flood Situation Improves in Dhaka, Other Areas

BK1309132588 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] With the continuous fall in water level in all the major rivers, the overall flood situation in Bangladesh is improving gradually. The flood situation in Dhaka city and its surroundings is also improving steadily with the recession of waters from almost all the affected areas. The overall flood situation in Lakhipur remained static, while it has deteriorated in Huliganj. According to Water Development Board, all the major rivers in the Brahmaputra, Ganges, and Meghna basins marked a fall from 3 to 5 cms.

Relief and anti-epidemic measures have been further geared up in the flood affected areas.

India

1 Killed, 20 Injured in Delhi Bombing

BK1209162688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] In East Delhi, 1 person was killed and 20 injured in a powerful bomb explosion in a Delhi Transport Corporation [DTC] bus at Shahdara terminal this evening. All the injured, including seven in serious condition, were admitted to the hospital. According to Delhi police, a similar explosive device, wrapped in a bag, was also found in the same bus. It was later defused. A spokesman of the police told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that two grenades were also found near the New Delhi railway station.

As already reported, two powerful bombs were defused in the capital last night. One was found in a DTC bus, while the other, a crude and powerful one, was found on a pavement in Dhaula Kuan in South Delhi. Both the devices were detected by the vigilant public, who informed the police before any damage could be caused to life and property.

The Delhi police have alerted the public to be vigilant against any unattended, suspicious-looking objects found in public places. People have been warned not to touch any unclaimed objects, which could be in the shape of boxes, briefcases, suitcases, bags, transistor radios, balls, toys, and other containers. They have been advised to inform the police immediately when some suspicious activity or object is noticed.

Delhi Intelligence Squad To Counter Terrorism

BK1309131788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The government has sanctioned the setting up of a special intelligence squad under the Delhi Police to counter terrorist activities in the capital. Announcing this at a news conference the Delhi police commissioner, Mr Vijay Karan, said the squad will start functioning soon.

About yesterday's bomb blast in the city, he said the police are working on certain clues and a break through is expected.

Investigation teams have been sent to nearby states and a dozen of people are being interrogated in Delhi.

Mr Vijay Karan informed that 15 out of the 21 admitted to hospital have already been discharged.

West Bengal, Tripura Observe Transport Strike

BK1409035288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] A 24-hour bundh [strike] began in West Bengal at 0600 this morning. It has been called by the ruling Left Front in support of its five-point charter of demands

which includes immediate central clearance of Haldia petrochemical and Bakhreshwar thermal power projects. AIR [All India Radio] Calcutta correspondent reports that buses, trams, and other public transport remained off the road. Train services on both the eastern and southeastern railways have been paralyzed. Sixty-one mail and express trains and 26 passenger trains have been canceled due to the bundh. Long-distance trains have either been canceled or terminated at points of entry to the state. The Indian airlines has canceled some of its flights to Calcutta. The state government has taken all measures to maintain peace and order during the bundh. Essential services and flood relief work have been exempted.

A 12-hour bundh has also been called by the opposition Left Front in Tripura. This is in protest against the alleged lathi [baton] charge on the former chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakroberty, and others at Udaipur on Monday.

1 Killed, 8 Injured in Strike

BK1409090688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In West Bengal, one person was killed and eight injured in stray violent incidents during the 24-hour bundh [strike] called by the ruling party today. The incidents took place during group clashes between the pro- and anti-bundh people. Public life remained paralyzed due to the bundh, which began early this morning.

Our Calcutta correspondent reports that vehicular traffic is off the road and railway and airline services have also been affected. All business establishments have been closed. However, Calcutta port services are not affected and work in tea gardens in Darjeeling District is on. Partial attendance was reported in central government offices.

The state chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, described the West Bengal bundh as total. He, however, said that relief work in the flood hit areas is not affected.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

3 Killed in Amritsar

BK1309034988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Three terrorists and a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] constable were killed in an encounter in Amritsar District last night. Four terrorists were challenged by a CRPF ambush party near village Nathuchak. One terrorist was arrested. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them. Three more terrorists were also arrested in Amritsar District after a raid on their hideout in village (Mal).

'Terrorists' Kill 15

BK1409025988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Fifteen people were killed and 18 injured when terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at Sirhind town in Patiala District last night. According to an official spokesman, five terrorists opened fire with automatic rifles and sprayed bullets in the grain market killing 13 people on the spot. Two died in hospital. Earlier, agency reports put the number of injured at 50. The terrorists, who had come to the market on scooters, held Chinese made AK-47 rifles. The police all over the state have been alerted.

Elsewhere in Punjab, two BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers] were killed when some terrorists opened fire on a BSF picket at Nakhu town in Ferozepur District last night.

Former LTTE Commander, 15 Others Arrested

BK1209125088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The former Jaffna commander of LTTE, Sadasivam Krishnakumar alias Kittu, and 15 other LTTE militants were taken into custody in Madras today under the National Security Act. Kittu has been under house arrest for the last 3 months.

Last month, over 150 LTTE men were arrested under the National Security Act.

Iran

Velayati, 'Aziz Begin Meeting With Eliasson

LD1309121588 Tehran IRNA in English 1136 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz arrived at Palais de Nations this afternoon to resume their third plenary meeting ever since the peace talks started here under the good offices of the United Nations Aug. 25.

The Iranian foreign minister arrived at the building few minutes before the scheduled time of 1 P.M. and minutes later the Iraqi delegation headed by 'Aziz entered the building.

Asked by reporters whether they will continue the peace talks in New York, Iran's foreign minister replied positively by only saying "Yes." 'Aziz however did not comment on the same question posed to him by waiting journalists.

A group of 11 journalists, including an IRNA reporter, were allowed in the conference hall to take films and photos.

At 1.05 P.M. the U.N. mediator in the Iran-Iraq conflict entered the room with five of his aides and they were seen consulting for less than a minute. Then the signal for the two foreign ministers to enter came by Eliasson.

Velayati and 'Aziz leading their 11 and 14 man delegations respectively, entered the conference room seconds later (at about 1.07). After taking shots for two minutes the foreign reporters were asked to leave and the official talks under the supervision of Eliasson started.

Unlike the previous time, the Iraqi foreign minister was smiling and was missing his cigar at the same time. Velayati too smiled as he entered the room.

The third plenary session was convened Saturday afternoon with expectations high that the continuation of the peace negotiations will be held in New York under the direct command of the U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council.

Iraqis Leave UN Building

LD1309134488 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 13, IRNA—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz left the U.N. European Headquarters here at 13:45 hours, that is after 35 minutes of direct talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, as their third plenary meeting resumed here at 1.10 p.m. today.

But the foreign minister of Iran was still in and it was not immediately clear if he was consulting Jan Eliasson, the U.N. mediator in the Iraq-Iran war or if there were some other problems.

Asked if he had any statement to make as he was leaving the building, the Iraqi foreign minister said, "No, not now."

After 'Aziz left at 1:45, scores of journalists were waiting for the Iranian delegation to come down but after more than one hour, U.N. spokesman Therese Gastaut came to tell them that the two ministers had held talks for some 40 minutes and then left the conference hall for some "consultations."

She declined to provide further information like whether Velayati was meeting with Eliasson or consulting only his delegation.

Two members of the Iranian delegation, including Iran's charge d'affaires here were seen leaving the building some half an hour after the Iraqi delegation left. But they did not make any comments.

Gastaut said Eliasson will come to see the press later at an unspecified time. This indicated it was unknown how long this process will take.

When the meeting was convened this afternoon. It was expected a final decision taken by the U.N. secretary general to move the talks to New York will be announced.

But Iraq has explicitly opposed the adjournment of the talks here and particularly shifting them to New York. The reason for this Iraqi opposition is because the international pressure particularly in the U.S. is mounting against its continuing use of chemical weapons against its Kurdish population.

Another reason is that Iraq in New York will be under the pressure of the secretary general and the Security Council to put aside its illogical requests at this stage of the talks and let the peace talks continue until the Security Council Resolution 598 is fully implemented.

With Iraq's opposition to the U.N. chief's decision to move the negotiations to New York clear, it is not unlikely the Iraqi delegation might have to quit in protest to the decision.

Iraq wants the clearing of the Arvand River as well as free access to shipping in the Persian Gulf before the talks could continue. But Iran says these requests could be considered after troops withdrawals and echange of prisoners.

Next Round of Talks in New York

LD1309190288 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 13, IRNA—U.N. mediator in the Iran-Iraq war told a news conference here today that both Iran and Iraq had agreed to an invitation by the U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to meet him in New York.

Eliasson said the meeting will be later this month but he declined to be more precise.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters before leaving the U.N. building here after a third plenary session today, that Iran had accepted the invitation but accused Iraq of continuing "to distance itself from the secretary general and the Security Council."

Eliasson said the peace talks will be resumed in Geneva after convening them for a yet unknown period in New York. He did not comment why the talks were going to New York if they were supposed to be reconvened here again.

When asked by IRNA whether Iraq had earlier opposed New York as the next venue, Eliasson said he did not want to go into substance and thus declined to respond.

Eliasson expressed the "gratification" of both the secretary general and himself to both sides for having "committed themselves to the observation of the ceasefire."

Velayati said in his brief statement to reporters that if Iraq thought it would gain anything "with this negative attitude, they are wrong."

He expressed hope that the Iraqis will come to New York with "a different attitude" and that "we know and are sure that the Security Council does not support this negative attitude."

Iraq had declared its opposition to an adjournment in the Geneva talks and their moving to New York despite a decision by the secretary general.

By doing so Baghdad tried to escape the international pressure mounting against it over its massacre of the Kurdish population in northern Iraq, and also to undermine the role of the United Nations and the secretary general in their efforts to implement the Security Council Resolution 598.

Eliasson who was some 10 minutes late to the news conference at 16:10, apologized and said he was in contact with New York.

He also expressed the pleasure of the secretary general and himself as the personal representative that the peace process was still continuing. Eliasson commended both delegations for keeping the peace process "alive and going."

The U.N. mediators said "both sides have accepted an invitation by the secretary general to join me in New York."

In reply to a question on the shifting of the venue, Eliasson said "I will only admit there were certain practical advantages to the secretary general and myself to be in New York."

He said "The secretary general and I also understand that both sides will be prepared to pursue the overall peace process in Geneva, following the talks at the U.N. Headquarters."

He also said according to reporters he had received from U.N. military observers stationed on the Iraq-Iran borders, there the situation is "calm."

"The secretary general and I now hope very much that all concerned will utilize this period to reflect on ways to move the peace process forward in the next few months."

Eliasson was unable to say how the peace process in New York will go on and despite several questions on this subject posed to him by reporters, he declined to be specific.

He admitted that there was not the "kind of progress we would like to see" on issues of substance but only said "You have to have a modest appreciation of progress."

When asked by an IRNA correspondent, it was believed the invitation to the parties by the secretary general to meet him in New York had been extended last Saturday and therefore what had delayed its announcement until today and also if it was true Iraq had opposed the invitation, the U.N. mediator declined to "go into details of that question."

He only said "I just note with satisfaction that we now seem to be on the way of continuing the process as indicated by the secretary general and supported by the Security Council."

Eliasson elsewhere "strongly appreciated" the support that "we have had from the (Security) Council members, first of all for formulating the Resolution 598 itself, and accepting its implementation plan, and also in the course of our continued work. This is a complicated process. It will need the continued support of the Council in the future. However the basis which exists is a good and sufficient basis."

Following the ceasefire (Aug. 20) in the almost eight year old Iraqi war, the two sides agreed to hold face-to-face talks in Geneva from August 25 under the auspices of the U.N. secretary general for implementation of Resolution 598.

However on August 27 after two rounds between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz, it soon became clear that Baghdad by raising irrelevant issues was trying to bog down the peace process.

Claiming full sovereignty over the Arvand River the middle of which forms the two countries' southernmost border, Baghdad straying from the articles of 598 insists on the dredging of the waterway first. While Iran rejecting the Iraqi claim as contrary to the 1975 accord maintains that in line with Perez de Cuellar's implementation plan, troops withdrawal should first take place followed by exchange of POWs. However Iran does not rule out the dredging of Arvand River at a later stage.

Jan Elisson the Swedish envoy to the U.N. who took over from Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar as the mediator has tried his best to break the stalemate, but with Iraqi [as received] unable to see reason it was decided to move the venue to the U.N. headquarters.

Iran promptly agreed and with Iraq's seemingly reluctant answer in the affirmative today, the stage is all set for New York, where it is earnestly hoped the peace process will take a positive turn.

Velayati on Iraqi Statement

LD1309210588 Tehran IRNA in English
2045 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 13, IRNA—In another attempt to undermine the role of the United Nations, including its Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his personal representative on the Iraq-Iran war Jan Eliasson,

the Iraqi delegation to the Geneva peace talks issued a statement late in the evening today putting itself, as observers remark "in a more difficult position."

The Iraqi statement which was issued a few hours after a third plenary meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq earlier today and following a news conference by Eliasson in which he announced the agreement of both sides to shift the peace talks to New York, in fact was an attempt to refute what Eliasson told reporters at the briefing today.

The U.N. mediator said the peace talks will continue in New York in September and that they will be reconvened later on an unspecified date in Geneva.

Eliasson made it clear that it was the wish of the secretary general to continue the talks in New York because of "certain practical advantages."

The U.N. chief had proposed Sept. 22 for the resumption of the talks in New York although Eliasson tried not to disclose it at his first news briefing this afternoon.

Speaking to reporters after the Iraqi statement was issued, he admitted however that the idea of the timing was Sept. 22 as proposed by the secretary general.

The Iraqi statement issued later today said however that "The Iraqi delegation also informed the representative of the secretary general that the foreign minister (Tariq 'Aziz) cannot be in New York before the first week of October."

Before leaving the U.N. building after the end of today's plenary meeting, Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed that Iraq was trying to distance itself from the United Nations, including its secretary general and the Security Council. "If they think that with this negative attitude they can get anything, they are wrong," Velayati stressed when he addressed reporters in a brief statement.

"We do hope they will come to New York with a different attitude and we know and are sure that the Security Council does not support this negative attitude."

And it is all the more clear what the Iranian foreign minister said was right.

By issuing this statement the Baghdad government once again proved that it is only after ways and pretexts to procrastinate the talks and act in open opposition against the wish of the secretary general.

The Iraqi statement which came as a "surprise" to foreign journalists here was a good excuse for them to meet the U.N. mediator Jan Eliasson again at night to seek his opinion about this controversy Iraq had created again.

"The basic thing is that the meeting in New York has been agreed to by both sides and both sides have also agreed to meet in Geneva," he told reporters in explaining the issue.

"As to the New York meeting, there is agreement it will take place soon," he said in reiterating his remarks earlier in the day. He further added that the secretary general had suggested the meeting take place on 22 Sept. "We consider the question of date to be a technical issue and a secondary issue," Eliasson said, adding that "the main thing is that there's a decision to meet in New York and to continue in Geneva."

He said it was now up to the secretary general to take the matter into consideration.

Asked about Iraq's announcement that against the wish of the secretary general it will not attend the New York meeting before the first week of October and whether he was in touch with the parties on this matter, he said "We are in touch with them and with New York." He said "We had hoped and are still hoping to solve this matter in a smooth and undramatic manner."

Asked if a meeting with the two ministers had been planned for the next 24 hours, he said "not on my part, but we are in informal contact."

He said he would leave Geneva for New York tomorrow upon a request by the secretary general to report to him after the third plenary session.

Asked if he was surprised by the Iraqi statement, he said "I won't comment on that."

And indeed, Mr. Eliasson should not have been surprised by what the Iraqi delegation has raised to further deteriorate the situation. After all, the U.N. mediator, after chairing the negotiation for some two weeks, must have got a clear picture of the real intention and attitudes of the parties.

Today's announcement that the talks are moving to New York was in fact the second political defeat for the Baghdad regime ever since talks for a ceasefire began in New York in early August.

Their first setback came when they insisted on direct talks before a ceasefire something which they did not achieve. And after procrastinating the Geneva talks followed by a decision on the part of the U.N. chief to move the talks to Geneva, they announced their opposition to the decision—but again they were defeated because their stance was illogical and against the provisions of the secretary general.

Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi explicitly announced that his country will refuse to adjourn the Geneva talks and move them to New York.

Informed sources said this Iraqi position had also been reiterated by the Foreign Minister 'Aziz during his talks with Eliasson in the plenary meetings Saturday.

Iraq did not want to go to New York because there it would have to face the international pressure on its for its crimes more heavily. The world is now indignated [as received] by Baghdad's horrid use of chemical weapons against its own people, the Kurds.

It was in the news today that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said the U.S. has "compelling" evidence that Iraq has used chemical weapons against its Kurdish people.

And that is why Iraq did its best to prolong the Geneva talks despite the little progress here, and prevent their shifting to New York. Furthermore, in New York, it would be under more pressure by the U.N. chief and the Security Council to adopt a more rational stance as regards the peace process.

With all these facts becoming evident, let the world decide and judge who is after peace and who wants to kill time and procrastinate the negotiations to get "concessions."

Besharati Briefs Khamene'i on Talks

LD1309180388 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i received Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Tuesday.

In the meeting, Besharati briefed the president on the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq peace talks currently in progress in Geneva.

In response, the president gave necessary guidelines to Besharati concerning the Geneva peace talks.

Pro-Kurdish Rally Reported in Tehran

LD1309175088 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Over 10,000 Iraqi Muslims including Kurdish refugees staged a demonstration at the U.N. office in Tehran Tuesday, protesting the Baghdad regime's cold-blooded massacre of the Kurdish population in northern Iraq. The demonstrators, carrying placards which read "Death to Saddam", "Peace meaningless unless Saddam is toppled," and "U.N. Break Your Silence", called on international bodies to condemn the Kurds' genocide in Iraq and demanded immediate measures to stop the chemical carnage by the Ba'thist regime.

The demonstration organized by the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) drew thousands of Kurds and other Iraqis having sympathies for the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan, two major opposition Iraqi groups fighting the regime in Baghdad.

Following Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, Baghdad has waged an all-out chemical warfare against Kurdish-populated northern Iraq as a result of which hundreds of defenceless Kurds—mostly women and children—were killed and thousands others maimed.

So far over 150,000 Iraqi Kurds have fled to Turkey to escape Iraqi poison gas attacks on their hometowns while over 16,000 others have taken refuge in Iran.

Also participating in the demonstration were a number of chemical victims mostly Iraqi Kurdish women and children, brought to Iran over the past few days for medical treatment.

During the demonstration, the Organization for Defence of Human Rights in Iraq, distributed pamphlets, calling on international organizations to despatch medical teams to Turkey and Iran to treat chemical victims.

A resolution, read at the end of the rally, blasted the Baghdad regime for its gruesome massacre of Kurds and called on international organizations to probe the status of over 400,000 Iraqi political prisoners and that of thousands of homeless Iraqi Muslims including Arabs, Kurds and Turkic speakers now living in exile.

They also handed the U.N. office in Tehran a statement for U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

300 Iraqi Kurds Seek Asylum

LD1309193388 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Sept. 13, IRNA—Another 50 Iraqi families comprising 300 Kurds have sought asylum in Iran following Baghdad's intensified attacks on Kurdish areas in northern Iraq.

More than 16,500 Iraqi Kurds have so far crossed into the Islamic Republic to seek asylum since the outset of Baghdad's attacks including the use of chemicals on Kurdish villages.

KDP Leader Thanks Khamene'i

LD1309194188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq [KDP], has sent a message to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i thanking Iran for its immeasurable, unstinting humanitarian assistance to the oppressed Iraqi Kurdish nation.

The message points to the Iraqi regime's horrific crimes of extensive attacks and chemical bombing of villages and residential areas in the districts of Zakhu, Dahuk, ('Amadiyah), and 'Aqrah Shaykhan among others in Dahuk Province and of the Shaqlawah and (Barzan) Districts in Irbil Province. The Iraqi Ar Force fighter-bombers' aim was to massacre the oppressed Kurdish people of Iraq, the message states.

The message also states that on 26 August the Iraqi regime carried out 24 aerial chemical attacks in a single day, martyring or injuring over 1,500 Kurdish civilians, including women and children. The leader of the Iraqi KDP also expressed concern over the renewed Iraqi chemical attacks on tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurdish men, women, and children, who are wandering around as homeless refugees along the Iranian and Turkish borders. He called for the world community to condemn Iraq and to provide assistance for these victims.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on No-Confidence Vote

LD1309131688 Tehran IRNA in English 1114 GMT 13 Sep 88

["Speaker Dignifies Out-Going Ministers"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today praised services of Mohsen Rafiqdust as minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) during the wartime.

He commented that the ministers who did not get a vote of confidence from the Majlis have had the best records of service to the government and the people, and that the no-confidence vote of the Majlis should never be interpreted as a vote disputing their past services.

Eighteen out of the 21 ministers introduced by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to the Majlis got a vote of confidence. Rafiqdust, Education Minister Kasem Akrami and Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali did not get the vote.

The speaker also expressed hope that those who have got a vote of confidence will serve Islam and the cause of the Islamic Revolution.

'Caretaker' for Education Ministry

LD1309135588 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today appointed Ne'matollah Abtahi as caretaker of the Education Ministry.

Education Minister Kazem Akrami failed to gain sufficient votes from the Majlis (parliament) on Monday and therefore had to relinquish his post.

Abtahi was deputy of Education Ministry for cultural and planning affairs.

Khamene'i Receives Donations, Stresses Alertness

LD1309142788 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—President Khamene'i today called on the Iranian armed forces, volunteers and people to maintain their alertness more than ever before because he said the enemy will never give up its hostility towards Islam. The president said "we are committed to our undertakings at the negotiating table and are men of valour on the battlefields. Therefore, it is a blunder for anybody in the world to think that the Islamic republic is in a weak position."

Khamene'i was addressing a group of people who had called on him to present cash and kind aid for the country's post-war reconstruction projects.

The president said, since the Iranian people have realized that even the acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic has not solved Iran-Iraq problems, they are determined to continue their support for the Muslim combatants, which he added is a sign of their vigilance.

The Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq suffered substantial casualties and losses during its nearly eight-year-old war against Iran has now no answer to its people's question as to what benefits the war brought for that country.

Khamene'i said the Baghdad regime by raising the issue of sovereignty over the Arvand River at the U.N.-sponsored peace talks in Geneva is trying to give the misleading idea that its war was meant to get full sovereignty over that waterway. If this was the case then it is a blatant infringement of international contracts which are still valid, he said.

President Khamene'i made it clear that the Islamic Republic will never accept such unjustifiable claims and that the whole world accepts Iran's logical stance.

At the end of the meeting, the visitors presented a sum of rials 60 million (dlrs 845,000) in cash and 172 pieces of gold ornaments to be spent on post-war reconstruction projects.

Commentary on Crackdown on Drug Trafficking

NC1309114088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] The second phase of the Val'adiyat campaign against drug smugglers and addicts is to be initiated all over the country from the beginning of the month of Mehr [23 September-23 October]. The Val'adiyat

scheme was put into operation with the aim of dismantling distribution networks and arresting professional traffickers. According to statistics provided by the Islamic revolutionary mini-groups, in Tehran Province alone more than 1.5 tons of narcotics have been discovered and more than 7,000 traffickers and addicts arrested. In line with these measures, the operation to purge and dismantle the former Jamshid District of Tehran was also carried out.

There is no doubt that in the first phase of the implementation of the Val'adiyat scheme, some headway was made, although it should be borne in mind that this took place under wartime conditions, with the accompanying restrictions. However, these statistics do not appear very impressive when compared with the large number of traffickers and abundance of narcotics in cities and the increasing number of addicts all over the country. Therefore, more appropriate and fundamental means must be adopted.

As the Islamic Revolution of Iran enters a new stage in the aftermath of the war, it is essential that narcotics officials embark on a purge of society to coincide with the reconstruction process. Most of the problems in the anti-drug campaign stemmed indirectly from issues related to the imposed war. Hence most of the forces who should have been mobilized to combat the merchants of death had to be dispatched to the fronts out of sheer necessity.

Now that present conditions make it easier to tackle the professional smugglers and addicts, it would be advisable to launch a more far-reaching and comprehensive campaign to eradicate the germs of corruption from society. By assessing the first phase of the Val'adiyat scheme we can find a better and more effective way of combating the problem in the second phase. We can identify the positive and negative aspects of the first phase, and then concentrate on the positive aspects and eliminate the weak points.

In the first phase of the Val'adiyat scheme, the eastern borders of the country—which are the main entry points for the narcotics—were not fully controlled and the routes bordering the deserts were also open to the smugglers, according to narcotics officials. This in itself is one of the main reasons why the implementation of the campaign was haphazard and ineffective. Intensive action against the corrupt elements in society is one of the traits which should be incorporated in a revolutionary system. Therefore, those individuals who have lured thousands of innocent youths into their drug traps should be dealt with accordingly. Revolutionary and swift punishment should be meted out to them. There have been numerous cases of the relatives of smugglers asking the authorities concerned not to show leniency where the death penalty is concerned.

One of the problems which cropped up in the first phase was lack of coordination among the organizations working against the traffickers. Fortunately, it has been decided that the Islamic revolutionary mini-groups and the Gendarmerie will merge their activities to combat drug traffickers, so that more centralized and coordinated measures will be implemented.

Other points which are important for the implementation of the initial stages of the Val'adiyat scheme include the approval of a plan proposed by the judiciary to sentence to execution all those traffickers found in possession of more than 30 grams of heroin or 5 kg of opium. Most experts are of the opinion that persons who have adopted the sale and purchase of narcotics as a profession can escape the death penalty by means of various tactics and ploys and by limiting their transactions. However, these experts state that when it is confirmed that a person is a drug trafficker he should be sentenced to execution regardless of the scale of his crime.

It has been seen in some cases that most of the addicts who have been arrested have been released without any guarantee or payment of a fine, and they return to society. It is essential that arrested addicts should, without exception, be handed over to cure centers so that they may be given appropriate treatment, under special supervision.

In tandem with the Val'adiyat scheme, the cultural aspects of the campaign against drug traffickers and addicts should also be given due attention by the Islamic Republic's system. In this way, in the second phase of the Val'adiyat scheme, which is due to begin in early Mehr [23 September-22 October], recourse will not be had to the adoption of merely temporary expedients or short-term measures. Instead, efforts should be made to leave a healthy society for posterity.

In conclusion, with the experiences gleaned from the first phase of the Val'adiyat scheme, the second phase should certainly be implemented with more intensive and extensive planning and greater technical and financial resources. It should be carried out with more earnestness, in a decisive manner. At this present juncture, reconstruction cannot be separated from the purge of society. The growth of society is linked to the active flourishing of its potential and the elimination of those elements which threaten this growth.

Dissolution of IRGC Ministry Predicted

TA1309175988 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Yesterday the Islamic Majlis did not give a vote of confidence to three ministers of Mir Hoseyn Musavi's 21-member cabinet. IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust is one of three ministers who failed to receive a vote of

confidence in yesterday's Majlis session. This indicates that the dissolution of the IRGC Ministry, a bill on which has been presented to the Majlis, is assured.

According to our fellow strugglers, IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, whose ministry the Islamic Republic regime has decided to dissolve, is one of the staunchest opponents of endorsing Security Council Resolution 598. In a speech a few days before Mir Hoseyn Musavi's resignation, Rafiqdust called on the IRGC, the mobilization forces, and the people to go to IRGC centers to continue the war and to register for military training. It is being said in informed Tehran circles that Mohsen Rafiqdust is claiming these days that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has betrayed the Islamic Revolution and has stabbed the IRGC in the back.

Nepal

Shrestha Confirms Arms Purchases From PRC

OW0809151888 Tokyo KYODO in English 2340 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept. 8 KYODO—Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha disclosed Thursday Nepal has bought a variety of antiaircraft weapons this year from China, the Kingdom's neighbor to the north.

Shrestha, who is also Nepal's defense minister, said in reply to questions raised at the Rastriya Panchayat (parliament) that the weapons were acquired with a view to making the Royal Nepalese Army skilled, capable and modernized.

Nepal buys necessary arms and defense equipment from various friendly countries, he said.

Newspapers in Kathmandu have in recent weeks reported that Nepal had procured sohpisticated arms from China this year, but the government had so far neither confirmed nor denied it.

The prime minister did not go into details of the cost and amount of the weapons purchased from China.

King Birendra Terminates Parliament Session

BK1109093988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0442 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 11 (AFP)—King Birendra has prorogued Parliament, ending a three-month session marked by strong criticism of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and repeated calls for him to resign.

Several amendments were hurriedly passed before the 39th session of the National Panchayat (Parliament) was prorogued Friday [9 September], official sources said.

The move was routine, but analysts said the formal ending of the session had come none too soon for Mr. Shrestha who can govern without any effective opposition to his policies until Parliament reopens in June or July.

Several opposition MP's strongly criticized Mr. Shrestha during this year's session, which opened on June 18, charging him with weak administration and failure to deal with deteriorating economic conditions and control corruption.

The prime minister survived a no-confidence motion and almost daily appeals for him to resign. Most recently he came under fire for allegedly disorganized relief operations after a disastrous earthquake last month.

A number of legislators turned against Mr. Shrestha after a cabinet reshuffle in March which brought in several controversial ministers.

The no-confidence motion was filed June 28 by some 50 MP's including former premiers Surya Bahadur Thapa and Lokendra Bahadur Chand, former Parliament Speaker Rajeswore Devkota and former Home Minister Ravindra Nath Sharma.

The motion alleged that Mr. Shrestha had (?flouted) the ideals of the party-less polity, encouraged corruption and indulged in unethical actions.

The National Panchayat chairman, Nawa Raj Subedi, threw out the motion on the grounds that the allegations "lacked concrete evidence and were absurd."

On Thursday, Mr. Shrestha said there had been "progress" in the economic situation and that he was "taking drastic steps to control the administrative corruption and maintain law and order in the country".

Most recently, the premier has come under fire for the murder of former MP Karna Prasad Hyonju, killed while distributing relief to earthquake victims at Bhaktapur township in eastern Nepal on August 25.

Mr. Shrestha is expected to carry out another major cabinet reshuffle in the near future which is expected to remove some of his more controversial ministers, a highly-placed source closed to the prime minister said.

Students Prevented From Leaving for USSR

BK0309133488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 3 Sep 88

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 3 (AFP)—Emigration police at the Tribhuvan International Airport here prevented a group 40 students from boarding a plane for Moscow, official sources said Saturday.

The students were to leave here Friday evening for Moscow to pursue higher studies under cultural fellowships granted by the Soviet Government without the concurrence of the Nepalese Government, a Foreign Ministry source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Some students had managed to leave last Monday for Moscow via New Delhi, claiming to be going to the Indian capital for medical check-ups, the sources said.

While the Soviet Government grants 90 to 100 scholarships each year through the Nepalese Government, only a third of these materialize.

Most of the scholarships are for studies in medicine or civil and mechanical engineering, including aircraft maintenance and computer science.

But about 100 cultural fellowships are offered privately each year on recommendations by the Soviet Embassy here.

The embassy selects students with ties to the Soviet mission or who are involved in activities promoting relations between the two countries, the Foreign Ministry source said.

Some students, unable to gain admission into Indian universities or to afford the high costs of U.S. and European universities, pay 1,000 to 1,500 U.S. dollars to obtain a Soviet fellowship.

Of about 1,000 students pursuing higher studies in the Soviet Union in various technical and nontechnical fields, at least 40 per cent hold cultural fellowships and went to the Soviet Union without visas or the Nepalese Government's concurrence.

Most become strong critics of the current Nepalese political system after reaching the Soviet Union, a Home Ministry source said.

He added, "These students, after receiving necessary documents from the Soviet cultural attache in Kathmandu, fly to New Delhi without a passport, and from there they proceed to Frankfurt in Aeroflot (the Soviet Airline), as in both places visas were not necessary for all those Nepalese citizens." From Frankfurt the students fly to Moscow using documents issued by the Soviet Embassy.

The Foreign Ministry had lodged protests at the Soviet Embassy here against the practice of providing cultural fellowships on an individual basis, official sources said.

The embassy is reported to have assured the Nepalese Government over the past year that it would stop such cultural fellowships, saying that the present group of students would be the last to go to Moscow.

Political observers here say the Nepalese Government's stringent move Friday to prevent students from going to Moscow with private scholarships was apparently aimed at checking Soviet political influence among the general public.

The Soviet Union was a major aid donor to this Himalayan Kingdom until the late 1960's, helping to build 170 kilometres (105 miles) of Nepal's 1,040 kilometre (650 mile) National Mahendra Highway running parallel to India's Bihar and Uttar Pradesh States along Nepal's lowland tropical region.

Moscow also helped build several factories in Nepal.

But in 1970 the Soviet Union suspended free grants and ceased offering long-term capital loans, a Finance Ministry source said.

Pakistan

Spokesman on UN Team's Visit to Afghan Border

BK1409033988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] An inspection team from the United Nations Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan visited the Yutr area 7-12 September to inquire into the allegations of violations of the Geneva accords levelled by the Kabul regime against Pakistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that during their 6-day stay in the area the military observers inspected a wide area along the Durand Line [separating Pakistan and Afghanistan]. They stayed at the border town of Qamar Din Qarez in Pakistan and visited the last border posts of the Pakistan militia in the far flung areas of (Kashatur) and (Gaznuna). They inspected vehicles and trucks and interviewed many people.

The spokesman said another inspection team visited the Chaman area 3-6 September to assess the extent of damage caused by shelling from Afghan artillery and tanks. The inspection team also talked with refugees in the tent villages. The refugees told the UN officials that they would definitely return to Afghanistan after an Islamic government is set up in Afghanistan. They denied that the Pakistan authorities are preventing them from returning to their homeland.

Emergency Council Reviews Law, Order Situation

BK1309161588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The second meeting of the Emergency Council was held under the chairmanship of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. The council held an indepth review of the law and order situation in the country and the latest developments in Afghanistan.

The council decided to provide additional assistance, particularly medicines, to the flood-affected areas of Bangladesh. A high-level delegation led by a minister will soon go to Dhaka to express Pakistan's concern and sympathy with the fraternal people of Bangladesh at this hour of distress. The delegation will assess the damages caused by the floods and the of the additional assistance which has to be provided by Pakistan. The meeting also decided that a military aircraft will soon leave for Dhaka with medicines and clothes for the flood-affected people. The council was informed that a ship laden with wheat will leave Karachi for Bangladesh on 20 September.

President Promulgates Constituencies Ordinance
BK1309162588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The president has promulgated the Delimitation of Constituencies Second Amendment Ordinance 1988 with immediate effect. Under this ordinance, the number of seats of the federally-administered tribal areas in the National Assembly has been increased from five to eight. The president has also issued the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas Determination of the Census Regulation 1988, (?amending) the previous census procedures. The regulation specifies that the allocation of seats in the National Assembly and the application of the Delimitation of Constituencies Act 1974 to the federally-administered tribal areas will be based on the census held in 1972.

Sri Lanka

Badulla Students Riot Against Government
BK1309131988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1228 GMT 13 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Four students and four policemen were wounded when police tried to bring a rampaging mob under control in Badulla town this morning, police told LANKAPUVATH. They said one person succumbed to his injuries during emergency surgery at the Government Hospital, Badulla, after police were forced to fire in the air, when (?several) warnings went unheeded. A full inquiry is being held into the incident. Police said they had issued several warnings before being forced to open fire.

Police said today's rampage was a climax to a build up which commenced on September 5th by the Jathika Sishya Balamandalaya [National Students Union] who distributed leaflets for [word indistinct] to come out and demonstrate on roads, obstruct traffic, [words indistinct] private buses, public property and the police and start agitation to bring down the government.

Between 6 and 9 September (last Friday) students in various schools demonstrated and the police with difficulty managed to keep the situation under control. They said that following yesterday's hartal [strike] called by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], the students of Uva College, Thenmaha Vidyalaya, Dharmadutha College and other schools marched into Badulla town, obstructed and attacked Sri Lanka Transport Board and private buses and other vehicles.

When the police tried to bring the situation under control, they too were stoned and hit with rocks, bricks and other missiles.

Police said the school children were being instigated to commit violence by teachers and university students. Meanwhile, two vehicles were badly damaged. They said that as the students continued their rampage, the police in a further effort to bring the situation under control fired tear gas and rubber bullets but to no avail.

The students intensified their attack and continued to hurl rocks, bricks and other missiles at the police who finally were forced to open fire.

The person who was standing between the Survey Department and Uva College succumbed to his injuries while receiving emergency surgery at the General Hospital, Badulla.

Curfew Imposed on Badulla
BK1309161188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1547 GMT 13 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—A curfew was imposed in Sri Lanka's Badulla District, commencing 2200 hours (1630 GMT] tonight, which will be lifted on Thursday [15 September] at 0600 hours.

This followed an incident earlier today, where one person succumbed to his injuries and four others were injured in Badulla town, when police were forced to open fire to control a rampaging mob of students who attacked police, vehicles and public property, police said.

Landmine Explosion Kill 9 in Amparai District
BK1309131388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, eight policemen and a civilian were killed in a landmine explosion in a village in Amparai District in the east, early today.

PTI quoting official sources in Colombo says the victims were travelling in a truck on patrol duty when the

landmine struck the vehicle blowing it into pieces. Police cordoned off the area. A massive search is on to nab the culprit.

115 Tamil Political Detainees Released

BK1309161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government released 115 Sri Lankan Tamil political detenues [detainees] held at the Boosa detention camp this morning. The release has been effected in accordance with the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Fifty three of them are from Batticaloa, 25 from Trincomalee, 10 from Jaffna, 10 from Colombo, 5 from Mullaitivu and Vavuniya [figures as received]. Two of the released detenues were received by their families, while the others were met by officials of the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka.

They sailed this morning from Kankesanthurai on board an Indian naval ship "INS Mahesh." They were attended on board by a special medical team.

India has welcomed the release of the prisoners. In a statement in New Delhi today, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman expressed the hope that the remaining detenues, who have supported the agreement, would also be released shortly. This will help create necessary conditions for holding the provincial elections in the recently merged Northeastern Province.